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FOR SEVENTEEN YEARS, THE LESBIAN AND GAY WEEKLY

AIDS activists storm NIH

Arrestees are treated violently as more than 1000 protesters blast the National Institutes of Health for its 'lethargy' in developing inclusive drug trials and effective therapies

By Michael Galvin

BETHESDA, Md. — The changing face of AIDS was evident May 21 when 1200 AIDS activists from across the country descended upon the National Institutes of Health (NIH) here to protest the agency's performance in developing new therapies against AIDS. Women, people of color, intravenous drug users, and homeless people joined forces with the lesbian and gay community in a five-hour demonstration, marked by the violent arrests of 60 people.

Organized by ACT UP/New York, the demonstration began about 8:00 a.m. with a march from the Bethesda Medical Center Metro stop to the main NIH administration building. Protesters chanting "NIH you can't hide, we charge you with genocide," and carrying placards which read "We're all fired up," circled the lawn in front of the administration building. Access to the building was blocked by a security force of 40 who stood behind two rows of four-foot high, wire and wooden slat snow fences.

dollars, one drug, big deal," demonstrators threw fake \$100 bills into the air and demanded the end to the "lethargy within the NIH," as one protester put it.

Throughout the weekend, ACT UP and NIH officials exchanged one volley after another of press releases. The AIDS activists charged NIH with squandering three-quarters of its research funds on studies of AZT, which "makes half the people who try it sick" and "stops working after a year" for the other half.

Answering for NIH, the National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Disease (NIAID) replied, "Clinical trials of virtually all antiretroviral drugs with significant promise have been or will be conducted by the AIDS Clinical Trial Group [ACTG]. The fact is, that except for AZT and a few related compounds, very few promising antiretroviral drugs have yet emerged from pre-clinical research; thus few are available for testing."



The NIH's main administration building was temporarily engulfed by smoke from pipe bombs, May 21

In one of the demonstration's most dramatic moments, an ACT UP/New York affinity group, the Power Tools, ignited four multi-colored military smoke bombs. Holding the smoke bombs aloft on 30-foot-high poles, the Power Tools rushed through the crowd, cheering on the protesters. Whistles, screams, air sirens, and various percussion instruments pierced through the blanket of smoke which temporarily succeeded in obliterating from sight the main NIH administration building.

Demanding improvements in the research of therapies for AIDS, protesters called upon NIH to adopt measures outlined in a 14-step program drafted by ACT UP/New York. Shouting "Ten years, a billion

ACT UP/New York countered by saying that "NIAID has no plans to test promising new antiretrovirals such as protease inhibitors, ribozymes (including trichosanthin or 'Compound Q'), intravenous hypericin or Tibo derivatives," because "the ACTG antiretroviral pipeline is still clogged with AZT trials enrolling 80 percent of all trial participants."

Phyllis Sharpe, a member of the political action group Anger Into Direct Action (AIDA), a coalition of homeless and formerly homeless people living with AIDS and HIV infection, expressed rage with the ACTG exclusion of women and children,

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Focus

on Film



Mass. House votes to ban gay foster parents

The move comes less than a week before new regulations allowing gay men and lesbians to be foster parents were to go into effect

By Laura Briggs

BOSTON — The Massachusetts House of Representatives passed an amendment banning gay people as foster parents, adoptive parents, and legal guardians May 17. The amendment, introduced by Republican gubernatorial candidate Steven Pierce (Westfield), is an attempt to overturn proposed changes in Department of Social Services (DSS) policy which would make parenting experience, rather than marital status, the primary criterion for selecting prospective foster parents. Activists expect Gov. Michael Dukakis to veto the amendment, should it pass the Senate.

The amendment, which is attached to the Massachusetts state budget, claims that "a homosexual or bisexual orientation shall be considered an obstacle to the psychological well-being of the child." The measure was passed 99-56 after a hearing that lasted more than three hours, in which Barbara Hildt (D-Amesbury) led the opposition to the amendment.

"It was an absolute, below the belt attack on the dignity of every gay man and lesbian in the Commonwealth," said Arline Isaacson, co-chair of the Mass. Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus, who lobbied against the measure.

The discriminatory amendment was introduced less than a week before the Department of Human Services (DHS) is to implement a policy that would lift the ban on lesbian and gay foster parents. The new policy, slated to go into effect May 25, reverses a Dukakis administration move five years ago that placed gay people last in a hierarchy of foster parent applicants.

At that time, lesbian and gay activists vigorously opposed the move, which was implemented after two children were removed from the Roxbury home of a gay couple, David Jean and Donald Babets. The Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts (CLUM) and Gay and Lesbian Advocates

and Defenders (GLAD) filed suit on behalf of Jean and Babets, claiming the discrimination was unconstitutional. The suit was settled out of court last month when DHS agreed to change the policy (see GCN, April 8-14, 1990).

CLUM lawyer Anthony Doniger told GCN that he would go to court again if the Pierce amendment passes the Senate and is not vetoed by Dukakis. "The Pierce amendment is patently unconstitutional," he said. "The notion that you can single out one group of people and say that they're psychologically harmful to children is clearly discriminatory. As a civil liberties lawyer, I'm not worried about any of this stuff being the law of the land in the near future," said Doniger.

A DHS spokesperson said that the department is also opposed to the amendment. "The [new] policy we have is in the best interest of the child and the family," said Joseph Landolfi. "Placement decisions should be left up to the Department of Social Services and the social workers who are closest to the case."

In 1988, Dukakis vetoed a budget amendment similar to the Pierce measure. Although a spokesperson for the governor said that Dukakis opposes the Pierce amendment, he declined to say whether or not Dukakis would veto the measure if it came to his desk. Citing the long legislative process the amendment still must go through before reaching the governor, the spokesperson said the question is too hypothetical at this point to answer.

Some lesbian and gay activists feel that whether or not the measure becomes law, Pierce's move is damaging to the lesbian and gay community. "The really important thing about this amendment is that it's introduced by Steven Pierce," said Gay and

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Quote of the week

"Sometimes in your life you're involved in something that can change, not just an institution, it can change the world. I think you've done it."

— *F. Warren Hellman, chair of the Mills College board of trustees, in the New York Times. The trustees of the women's college in Oakland, Calif., voted May 18 to reverse their decision to admit men as undergraduates. The decision comes following student protests that were supported by faculty and alumnae. (See GCN, May 20-26, 1990.) Hellman, who had been heartily booed when he announced the board's original decision, was cheered by more than 300 following the board's reversal.*

Army cadet will keep ROTC scholarship money

ST. LOUIS — After months of indecision, the U.S. Army announced May 19 that Washington University student James M. Holobaugh will not be forced to repay his \$25,000 Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) scholarship, according to the *New York Times*. Less than two weeks ago, the U.S. Navy reversed its decision to seek repayment of ROTC scholarship money from two gay midshipmen, Robb Bettiker and David Carney. (See *GCN*, May 13-19, 1990.)

Holobaugh came out in April of 1989, two months before he was to be commissioned. In December, a hearing officer recommended that the gay cadet be "disenrolled" from ROTC and forced to pay back his scholarship. (See *GCN*, March 18-24, 1990.) Prior to his disenrollment, Holobaugh's performance as a cadet major and battalion executive officer led him to be featured in ROTC recruiting material. He recently graduated *cum laude* in civil engineering, and said he promises to continue to fight the military's policy banning gay men and lesbians from service.

In a related story, the *Times* reported that four groups representing virtually all American colleges and universities sent a hand-delivered letter to Secretary of Defense Richard Cheney on May 15 urging him to discontinue the military's anti-gay policy. The letter was presented by the American Council on Education, the Association of American Universities, the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, and the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges. Cheney has not yet commented on the letter. (See *GCN*, May 13-19, 1990.)

□ Susan Schmitz

Hate crimes bill passes in Vermont

MONTEPELIER, Vt. — The Vermont Senate recently passed a hate crimes bill that would increase criminal penalties for assault motivated by bias. Gov. Madeleine Kunin signed the bill into law on May 13.

The bill received a boost from publicity about a violent gay-bashing of a Burlington man outside a gay bar April 15. The man who was beaten remains hospitalized following the incident, and may be blinded as a result.

□ Laura Briggs

Anti-abortionists suffer setback in Mass.

BOSTON — Anti-abortionists in Massachusetts now face stiff penalties for blockading women's health clinics, following a May 21 court decision. The injunction against blocking access or restraining someone from entering a clinic was filed by the Planned Parenthood League of Massachusetts and Attorney General James Shannon according to the *Boston Herald*.

The decision in favor of the injunction by Middlesex Superior Court Judge Peter Lauriat comes in response to civil disobedience actions the judge termed increasingly violent by the anti-abortion group Operation Rescue. The ruling makes interfering with clinic access punishable by two-and-a-

half years in prison or a \$5,000 fine.

In related developments, the U.S. Supreme Court left untouched similar injunctions in New York City and Atlanta. The High Court decision leaves intact \$70,000 in fines assessed against Operation Rescue in New York.

Activists on the left who advocate civil disobedience expressed concern about the move, saying that it could encourage businesses and organizations targetted by civil rights, peace, environmentalist, and labor groups to obtain similar injunctions against left activists.

□ Laura Briggs



'Our Bodies/Ourselves' turns 20 on May 13

"Our Bodies, Ourselves" collective holds anniversary party

WATERTOWN, Mass. — More than 300 people celebrated the 20th anniversary of the publication of *Our Bodies, Ourselves*, a groundbreaking work in the women's health movement. The May 13 fundraiser for the Boston Women's Health Book Collective netted over \$3700. The event featured speakers Byllye Avery of the National Black Women's Health Project, and Robin Morgan, the editor of the "new" *Ms. Magazine*. Music was provided by Alice Johnson, Andy Holiner, Deborah Silverstein, and Fred Small.

Our Bodies, Ourselves broke new ground in 1970 by advocating that women take more responsibility for their own health care, and not rely on (mostly male) doctors for knowledge of their bodies. The work is sharply critical of many standard medical practices, and includes encyclopedic information to help empower women to make health care choices. It also contains analysis of the politics and economics of health care. Five different editions have been published in the U.S., including one in Spanish. About a dozen editions have been published outside the U.S.

Collective members have also published similar books about parenting, adolescence, and aging, entitled *Ourselves and Our Children*; *Changing Bodies, Changing Lives*; and *Ourselves, Growing Older*. Members are currently working on a number of projects, including the Coalition to Promote Midwifery Care in Boston, the National Women's Health Network, which recently issued a new publication, "Hormone Therapy and Women's Health," and international translations/adaptations of *The New Our Bodies, Ourselves*.

The Collective relies on grants, royalties from books and donations for its work. Donations can be sent to BWHBC, 240A Elm St., Somerville, MA 02144.

□ Laura Briggs

Black feminist show honored

WASHINGTON — A segment on Black women and the feminist movement that appeared on the *Donahue Show* was awarded an "Emma" by the National Women's Political Caucus April 18.

The June 5, 1989, show included lesbian writer and activist Barbara Smith, who came out on the air. Other panelists included Byllye Avery, director of the National Black Women's Health Project; Loretta Ross, then-director of the Women of Color Program for the National Organization for Women; author Paula Giddings; and Dorothy Pittman Hughes, a Harlem entrepreneur.

"The show is a real first," said Smith. "Black women in the movement seldom get major media coverage although we've been active around women's issues for years."

— Laura Briggs

U.S. House passes Americans with Disabilities Act

WASHINGTON — The U.S. House of Representatives voted overwhelmingly May 22 to approve civil rights legislation for people with disabilities, including people with AIDS. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was passed by the the Senate last year, and President Bush is expected to sign it.

The major difference in the House bill is that it contains an amendment significantly weakening its protection for people with AIDS. At the request of Food Service Industry lobbyists, the House passed an amendment 199-187 that would allow discrimination against people with AIDS in the food service industry, even though there is no evidence that AIDS can be transmitted through food handling. According to the *Boston Globe*, the amendment is expected to be eliminated when the bill is reconciled with the Senate version.

The ADA amends the 1964 Civil Rights Act, which prohibits discrimination based on race, sex, and religion to include people with disabilities. It requires that all public accommodations be accessible to people with disabilities, as employees and patrons, including public transportation, communications, and all buildings used by the public, including offices.

People with disabilities have fought for the legislation, which has been stalled in the House, by lobbying, holding rallies, and committing acts of civil disobedience (see *GCN*, March 18-24, 1990, Dec. 24, 1989).

□ Laura Briggs

Obscenity law leads to indictment of satellite company

NEW YORK — A broadcast company here that transmitted pornography around the country has been driven out of business by an Alabama District Attorney.

Montgomery County D.A. Jimmy Evans announced indictments Feb. 14 of the New York-based Home Dish Satellite Corporation, charging that its transmissions violate Alabama's obscenity law, according to *The New York Times*. Several large telecommunications companies that provided satellite service to Home Dish were also indicted. These services, including the GTE Corporation, terminated their contracts with Home Dish shortly after the indictments, effectively shutting down the smaller company.

An aide to Evans said that the charges were brought because Home Dish transmissions in Montgomery County offended the standards of the local community. Home Dish broadcasts X-rated films that show explicit sexual acts. Also cited in the indictments was Home Dish's Tuxedo channel, which shows R-rated films.

Legal observers say that this is the first case in which local obscenity laws are being applied to programs carried nationwide by satellite technology.

Norman Dorsen, president of the American Civil Liberties Union and one of the lawyers defending Home Dish, said, "It is shocking to think that Alabama could reach out and chill free speech in all 50 states." Of Home Dish's 30,000 customers nationwide, 22 were in Montgomery.

□ Chris Nealon

Gay minister conducts safer sex survey

CHARLESTON, S.C. — After conducting his own survey, a gay minister here recently found that danger of HIV transmission at interstate highway rest areas and adult bookstores has reached crisis proportions.

According to *The News*, a gay newspaper in Atlanta, Rev. George Exoo spent five months interviewing men at local rest areas and bookstores. Exoo said he encountered ignorance of and resistance to safe sex. "Only one person [knew] what nonoxynol-9 is, and he refuses to use condoms," said Exoo. "In fact, rest area regulars tend to regard the use of condoms as an admission of AIDS

and the absence of them as a sign of safety."

Exoo also reported that 80 percent of the men that cruise rest areas identify themselves as "bisexual" or "straight," that almost all the men interviewed were in long-term relationships with women, and that none of those women had knowledge of their partners' cruising activities.

□ Chris Nealon

White supremacists arrested

SEATTLE — Two white supremacists, who government agents say were planning to bomb businesses owned by Korean people, a synagogue, and bars with largely Black and/or gay clientele, were arrested here May 12. Both men live in Idaho and a third man was arrested in that state for his part in the plan, according to the *New York Times*.

In its complaint, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) charges that the three men are members of the white supremacist group the Aryan Nation, which is based in Hayden Lake, Idaho. The FBI has charged John Winslow and Stephen Nelson with conspiracy, plus possession of firearms and bomb parts. They are awaiting a hearing. Proctor Baker has been charged with the possession of two pipe bombs and is currently being held without bail.

□ Susan Schmitz

Senate approves emergency AIDS funds

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A bill earmarking \$2.9 billion for 13 cities hit hardest by the AIDS epidemic was approved by the Senate May 15. The bill, sponsored by Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) and Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.), should reach the House of Representatives within a month, according to the *New York Times*. A comparable bill which allocates more money is currently before the House.

The bill has three sections. The first section, designed to reduce the number of patients in hospitals and strengthen community-based care, would give money to hospital clinics, community health centers, nursing services, and community-based organizations providing support, such as home visits, nutrition information, and counseling. The second section attempts to strengthen states' provisions for community care as well as provide testing counseling, and drugs that combat the disease. The third and smallest section would provide funds for the government to study the effectiveness and cost of programs for the care of HIV-positive.

There were almost a dozen proposed amendments to the Senate bill. One defeated amendment would have cut off funds from the bill to any state that has decriminalized the distribution of needles or bleach as an effort to stop the spread of AIDS. Another rejected amendment would have made it mandatory for people with AIDS and HIV to inform current and past partners. An amendment which was approved requires states to set up a plan for notification, and an AIDS case reporting system.

The Bush administration said it will offer no opinion until the House and Senate resolve their differences on their respective bills.

□ Susan Schmitz

FENS ATTACK HOTLINE 426-4184

Anyone with information about the recent brutal attacks in the Fenway area of Boston is strongly encouraged to call the Fens Attack 24-hour hotline, 426-4184. All calls will be held in strictest confidence.

Rhode Island gay rights bill wins Senate approval

Local gay and lesbian rights advocates credit coalition-building, grass-roots activism and a boost from last year's victory in neighboring Massachusetts

By Laura Briggs

PROVIDENCE — The Rhode Island Senate passed a lesbian and gay civil rights bill by a narrow margin May 3, paving the way for a possible victory in the nation's smallest state. The bill has the governor's support, and activists are cautiously optimistic about a win in the House of Representatives.

Gay rights advocates credit effective grassroots organizing, strong leadership by the bill's sponsor, and passage of the Massachusetts law for the Senate success. "It's a major turn-around in the Senate," said Michael Thompson of the Rhode Island Gay and Lesbian Alliance. "It's a surprise, but not necessarily a shock."

The bill would outlaw discrimination based on sexual orientation in housing, employment, accommodations, and credit, except in religious organizations, which are exempted. For the past two years, a bill banning discrimination only in the areas of credit and accommodations has passed the House, but failed in the Senate. "We got the message this year that House members didn't want to stick their necks out for this during an election year if the Senate was just going to kill it," Christopher Burke, president of the Alliance, told *GCN*.

The bill had the powerful sponsorship of the deputy Senate majority leader, Sean Coffey (D-Providence). "I can't say enough about how hard he worked for this bill," Burke told *GCN*.

"I don't think this kind of discrimination is fair," Coffey told *GCN*. "I saw this as an opportunity to do something about it. I've known a lot of people over the years who are gay, and most of them are people whom I have a lot of respect for."

Coffey credited the addition of limiting language to the bill for its success in the Senate. He cited the religious exemption, and language saying that the bill did not condone any behavior or lifestyle, or decriminalize sodomy. "It dealt with people's objections to the bill," said Coffey. "I've talked to several people in the House who voted against the bill last time who say they are going to vote for the Senate version. I know it was a difficult decision for the Alliance, but I think it got the bill passed."

Civil rights advocates brought together a broad coalition of lesbian and gay groups to work for the bill. Members of the Alliance board included representatives from ACT UP/Rhode Island; the Gay Pride Committee; the local gay newspaper, *Options*; the men's professional group, Network; the Gay and Lesbian Video Collective; Rhode Island Gay and Lesbian Youth; and GALA, a potluck group. They also garnered support from liberal churches and Ocean State Action, a progressive electoral group that includes many labor groups in this heavily unionized state.

Organizers this year also attempted to increase the involvement of lesbians and gay men outside the direct lobbying efforts. Activists called for a postcard campaign, and over 1,000 postcards were sent to legislators in this state of one million. "In a state where legislators think one letter on an issue is a lot, that's a significant number," said Burke. The gay rights advocates also held fundraisers and obtained letters of support from allies. And, at a time when New England states are facing massive budget

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Museum directors rally against arts censorship

Ralliers express 'solidarity' with a Cincinnati museum head who was indicted on criminal charges following his refusal to close an exhibit of photographs by gay artist Robert Mapplethorpe

By John Zeh

WASHINGTON — Six directors of art museums who booked the Robert Mapplethorpe photographic retrospective "The Perfect Moment" rallied here May 16 to denounce the criminal indictment of Cincinnati's Contemporary Arts Council Director Dennis Barrie on obscenity charges. They also attacked congressional efforts to restrict the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA).

"This attack on the notion of federalism and the federal government's power is also a very, very thinly veiled attack on the gay community in this nation," warned David Ross, director of the Institute of Contemporary Art in Boston, where the exhibit will have its final run from Aug. 2—Oct. 5, 1990.

"This is a very clear battleground for those who find the gay population of America the only sub-group left to openly hate here," Ross said. "It's still clear on television — and among smarmy comedians and Congressmen — that it's open season on gay men and women. The subtext of the use of this exhibition has to be read clearly. This is part and parcel of a campaign of homophobia and gay hate that we also need to oppose."

Ross criticized the media for stressing Mapplethorpe's homosexuality and AIDS-related death. "I'm very proud that this exhibit is going to be at Boston's ICA, but not because Mapplethorpe is a gay artist. It's because he was a great artist."

The day of lobbying was organized by Washington Project for the Arts (WPA), which exhibited "The Perfect Moment" after the Corcoran Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C., cancelled it last June, reigniting the question of government funding for the arts. It was the first time the directors had met as a group since the controversy erupted.

"We want to express solidarity with the Contemporary Arts Center's Dennis Barrie and affirm our belief in the critical value of an unencumbered NEA," WPA President James Fitzpatrick said.

The exhibit opened in Cincinnati amidst much controversy on April 7. In addition to formal portraits and still lifes, the exhibit includes pictures of nude children and gay men — singly and together in erotic, often S&M-oriented poses.

"Great art can disturb or delight," the ICA's Ross said. "It would be a horrible, disgraceful attack on this nation's culture to impose standards that would eliminate art that does take that road to disturb viewers' consciousness or sensibilities."

"It's sad to see an attempt to dismantle the National Endowment for the Arts, which has had such a wonderful record, including Mapplethorpe, in its funding," Barrie said.

The specific charges levelled against Barrie and the Contemporary Arts Center (CAC) were "pandering obscenity" and "using minors in nudity-oriented material." CAC petitioned a federal judge to allow the show to go on. To date, almost 60 thousand people have seen the exhibit, more than half of CAC's usual yearly attendance. According to Barrie, a University of Cincinnati poll showed that 96 percent of the Cincinnati community were aware of Mapplethorpe. "The diversity of our audience is amazing — Blacks, whites, all economic strata. They are curious, they like art, and they know somebody is trying to take their rights away."

"These attacks have raised the awareness of the importance of art, culture and freedom to our society, and revealed them as attacks of a political group that wants to divert attention from the larger issues of our nation," Barrie said. □



University of Texas Student Association President Toni Luckett addresses an April 1990 rally

Activism on the rise at Texas school

A protest against commencement speaker George Bush follows on the heels of several anti-racism demonstrations and the election of a Black lesbian as the head of the student body at the University of Texas

By David Morris

AUSTIN, Texas — In the latest of a series of recent events pointing to renewed progressive activism at the University of Texas (UT) here, about 200 activists held a noisy protest against commencement speaker George Bush, May 19. The graduation demonstration follows several anti-racism actions by students and the election of a Black lesbian as next year's Student Association president.

Nearly 40,000 people gathered in the school's stadium to hear the president deliver his commencement speech. Out-numbered almost 200 to one by the audience, the anti-Bush demonstrators, who were outside the stadium, made themselves heard inside by blowing whistles and horns and chanting throughout the ceremony. Much of the audience also saw large brightly colored banners which had been placed on a nearby hill.

Nine protestors, including five students, were arrested for blowing whistles inside the stadium during Bush's speech. All nine were

released after being held inside the stadium for an hour, and no charges were filed.

Calling themselves the Coalition for Political Empowerment, the activists, from student organizations and other groups, also distributed leaflets on a wide range of issues. Many of the demonstrators were openly lesbian or gay, and AIDS was prominent among the topics. At 12-minute intervals throughout most of the demonstration, a protester representing a person who died from AIDS laid on the ground and was outlined in chalk.

"AIDS is *the* central issue for me," said Robert Lowe of ACT UP/Austin. "One person is dying from AIDS every 12 minutes. We have a president who's full of idle chatter but we see no action whatsoever," he said, adding, "It's a very pressing issue. Two people will die of AIDS while he's giving his speech."

Other demonstrators stressed concerns

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Lesbian challenges sodomy law

Charging that she was not hired as a police officer because of her sexual orientation, a Dallas lesbian files suit against the city and state

By Chris Nealon

DALLAS — In a move that gay activists say could be significant in fighting sodomy laws, a lesbian who was denied employment as a Dallas police officer filed an anti-discrimination suit May 22. In her suit against the state of Texas, the city of Dallas, and the chief of the Dallas police department, Mica England charges that she was denied employment as a Dallas police officer because of her sexual orientation. The Dallas police department has said it will not hire any lesbians and gay men, citing the Texas State Penal Code's sodomy law as its justification.

Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, which is handling the case, charges that the sodomy law interferes with England's constitutional and legal right to be free of unwarranted government intrusion into her sexual conduct with another consenting woman in the privacy of her home. Section 21.06 of the code criminalizes "deviant sexual intercourse" between members of the same sex.

Twenty-six states currently have sodomy laws. Seven states, including Texas, have sodomy laws that apply only to same-sex sexual practices.

"[England's] case is an excellent example of how these laws discriminate against les-

bians and gay men even when they're not actually being arrested for sodomy," said Evan Wolfson, staff attorney for Lambda. He told *GCN* that England's case is strong because she has a specific grievance relating to the sodomy law rather than a purely philosophical objection.

In March 1989, England underwent a preliminary interview for a position on the Dallas police force. At that time a recruiter told her that being a lesbian would not prevent her from getting a job with the force. In a subsequent interview, however, England said she was subjected to questions about her personal life and her sexual activity, and was not permitted to complete interviews because of her statement that she is a lesbian.

England told *GCN* that she was extremely upset when she was shut out of the interview process and immediately tried to file a complaint with the police department. She said she was unable to file the complaint for several hours because she was "getting a runaround." Within two days England appeared before the Dallas City Council to argue her case. At that meeting, in July of 1989, she brought along an "Equal Oppor-

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COMMUNITY VOICES

GCN Job Opening: Coordinating Editor

Available late June/early July. Provide overall coordination and administration of the financial, administrative, and public relations aspects of GCN. Develop annual budgets, financial strategies, and fundraising projects. Edit the "Community Voices" section of the newspaper. Assist coordination of Board and staff committees, as well as volunteers.

Qualifications: Strong administrative, financial and editing skills and experience. Experience with non-profit administration and fundraising. Strong interpersonal and group meeting skills.

Deadline for applications: extended to June 1, 1990

Classifieds/Word Processing Coordinator

Description: Half-time word processing, half-time classifieds. Coordinate word processing of all articles for paper. Promote and develop classified advertising, manage billing and accounts for classified ads and bookstore distribution, work with promotions staff on increasing bookstore sales.

Qualifications: Typing 60-plus words per minute, strong organizational and business skills, promotions experience, familiarity with computers (Microsoft Word software).

Deadline for applications: June 15, 1990

GCN positions: All GCN positions require commitments to lesbian/gay liberation, feminism, anti-racism, an awareness of class issues, and a commitment to collective decision-making.

Salary/Benefits: All full-time collective positions pay \$215/week and include health/life insurance, routine health care through the Fenway Community Health Center, sick leave, and four weeks paid vacation. GCN offers staff members responsibility for their own jobs, with flexibility and ample room for innovation.

To apply: Please send resume and cover letter to GCN Job Search Committee, 62 Berkeley Street, Boston, MA 02116, Attn: Natalie Diffloth

The "Community Voices" and "Speaking Out" sections in GCN are parts of our efforts to provide a true forum of opinion for the community. We encourage you to send your ideas, feelings and comments to us, and to respond to ideas expressed within our pages. We welcome all contributions except personal attacks. Copies of letters and "Speaking Out" contributions sent elsewhere are printed on a space-available basis only. GCN reserves the right to edit letters and "Speaking Out" contributions for length and clarity, in consultation with the author. The opinions expressed are those of the author and are not intended to represent the views of the GCN staff or membership.

All letter and "Speaking Out" contributions must be TYPED and DOUBLE-SPACED. Letters can be NO LONGER THAN TWO PAGES. "Speaking Out" contributions can be NO LONGER THAN FOUR PAGES and require a short (one to two sentence) biographical note about the author for inclusion at the end of the article.

Because GCN wishes to encourage dialogue and a diverse representation of perspectives on the letters pages, printing of "Speaking Out" contributions received from authors who have had other "Speaking Outs" appear in GCN recently may be temporarily delayed.

For editing purposes, it is helpful to be able to contact you easily — please enclose your name, address, and daytime phone number with your letter or article. Thanks.

Send to: Community Voices or Speaking Out, GCN, 62 Berkeley Street, Boston, MA 02116.

The hottest lesbian erotica

Dear GCN:

Your Dec. 10-16, 1989 issue has been sitting on my desk since it arrived, waiting for me to write in response to the cover picture and article. T. Jones' letter in the May 6-12 issue has prompted me to immediate action. I was originally going to write for two reasons — first to thank you for printing the hottest lesbian erotica photos I've seen in GCN, and secondly to ask for another copy since this is the *one* time an issue has arrived with the paper sliced (right over the cover photo!).

Several of *my* friends happen to agree with me and totally appreciate the photo. Two dykes I know were even inspired to purchase the paper solely *because* the photo captivated them. Then, I was pleased that you chose two of my favorite photos from past GCN's (the one mentioned above and the Essex Hemphill-with-glowing-sphere photo) with the caption *SEXY, POLITICAL, PROUD* for your subscriber ad. Three characteristics that are vital to my life force and joy.

T. Jones may describe herself as a "long-time subscriber and avid supporter," but she sure isn't much of a reader. The original article that accompanied the photo titled "Drawing the Line" was an excellent, thoughtful article on lesbian sexuality and how we (individual lesbians) decide what we like or don't like around sex and art. The article stated that the original photo exhibit contains only photos using the same two lesbian artists/models throughout. How T. Jones could mistake one of the dykes for a man is beyond me...the braid (as thick as my forearm) cascading over her shoulder might have been a clue! T. Jones' interpretation of this picture as "he or she about to rape the bound or passive woman" is such a horrid distortion and so utterly absurd that I screamed out loud when I read it. Clearly T. Jones is off some deep end I hope to never experience up close. The *reason* the photo is so powerfully erotic is because the woman leaning against the wall has the most incredibly pleased and *wanting* look on her face.

Another late comment is to thank Pam Mitchell for her dynamite article on class and the movement (Jan. 28-Feb. 3 issue). And to thank Michael Bronski for his consistently rewarding and enlightening articles. Same to Marea Murray.

I love you GCN. Thanks for your unflagging dedication to us all.

Sandy Malone
Archer, Fla.

We can be visible and we can make history

Dear GCN:

We want to thank everyone who showed up at the forum "No Turning Back," May 4, another success in our effort to organize against the anti-gay referendum to overturn the Gay Civil Rights Bill. The forum publicly kicked off our statewide mobilization to defeat the referendum and gave us the opportunity to celebrate the recent overturning of the state's ban on gays and lesbians from being foster parents. The collaboration by Tom Wilson Weinberg, the Gay and Lesbian Defense Committee Chorus and Irving Berlin said it all. "You can have a kid if you're gay."

We want to thank Amber Hollibaugh for speaking about her work as a gay activist traveling across California in 1978, doing grassroots organizing against the Briggs Amendment; Sue Hyde for a provocative look at gays organizing in similar campaigns across the country, and Tom Wilson Weinberg, who puts our most political thought and queerest desire into song. Come back soon, all of you.

Now, the grassroots organizing against "Families First's" referendum is gaining momentum and we want you to join us. We can be visible and we can make history this year in Massachusetts.

The organizing will take many forms and we need your help. If you are interested in attending or planning speaker's training, we want you. If you want to help design and distribute campaign literature, we want you. If you want to work on a T-Ad campaign, produce buttons and bumper stickers, help with mailings, help enlist other organizations — labor unions, colleges, religious groups, etc., etc., — we want you!!

And be with us at Gay Pride so we can all send a message to the State House and to the state...the message that "There's no turning back on gay and lesbian rights."

Our next meeting is Thursday May 17, at Boston City Hall, at 7:30. Check at the desk for location. Watch GCN for more details.

Thank you,
Judy Andler
Progressive Caucus to
Defeat the Referendum

Postal porn: entrapment

Dear GCN:

Postal inspectors have a new game, and if you are gay and like porn, especially young porn, you may easily become a prime suspect and face charges. If you receive any

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Opinions reflected in "editorials" represent the views of the paid staff collective. Signed letters and columns represent the views and opinions of the authors only. We encourage all readers to send us comments, criticism, and information, and to volunteer and become members.

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Bisexuality subverts gender

By Karin Baker and Helen Harrison

The March 15th lesbian, bisexual and gay community meeting called to discuss the controversy around the move to exclude bisexuals from the title of the Northampton "Pride March," as well as its decision-making body, raised important questions about the role of bisexuals in the struggle against heterosexist oppression. We feel strongly that a visible and active bisexual community is critical to the success of the movement as a whole. However, its unique political potential is not well-recognized on either side of this debate. We write this hoping to contribute to this continuing discussion.

Some who oppose the inclusion of bisexuals in the "Pride" march seem determined to see bisexual experience as fundamentally different from lesbians' and gay men's. Thus the suggestion at the March 15 meeting that bisexuals (like heterosexuals) can play the role of "allies" in this struggle, similar to the one whites can play in fighting racism. We believe the connection of bisexuals to gay and lesbian liberation is more integral than this implies. It also goes beyond the simple need for "unity" among our communities called for by those on the "pro-bisexual" side. A bisexual identity does have different implications than that of a lesbian or gay man. In this article we address these points of intersection and divergence, and what they mean for a bisexual politic within the broader struggle against compulsory heterosexuality and women's oppression.

In our culture, heterosexuality is aggressively — even violently — promoted and enforced. Feminism and the gay and lesbian movements have exposed it as an institution compelling separate-and-unequal gender roles and female dependence on and deference to men. The visibility of lesbians and gay men challenges the patriarchal myth that heterosexual desire and "masculine" and "feminine" character traits are biologically based and therefore inescapable.

Lesbians play a central role in the struggle for women's liberation, and need to remain a distinct and visible segment of this movement. Lesbian identity and community challenge the patriarchal notion that women "need" men, and create a space in which women can focus exclusively on women. We will not be able to say any woman has freely chosen to be with a man until all women are free to not be with men. Flourishing lesbian communities are necessary so that women are able to make this choice.

Still, we believe that bisexuality is equally important in attacking heterosexism and male dominance. The concept of gender is as much a social construct as the institution of heterosexuality, and it is a central element

contributed to the down-payment, now want to recoup their investment. Arf's assessed value has mushroomed from its 1977 price of \$75,000. The prospective sellers are now asking \$153,000 from the women working to save Arf. A loan for that amount would entail monthly payments of \$1300 for 30 years. They request that the Arf land women accept this price before April 21, with earnest money, or they will offer the land and buildings on the open market.

We're not giving up. We have formed the New Mexico Women's Land Trust, a non-profit corporation, and are applying for tax-exempt status. We are chasing down grants and loans and throwing fundraisers. We are searching for women with wealth who wish to support women's land. But time is running short.

If you believe in women's community land, if you've ever been to the Land of Enchantment or think you might, if you've ever experienced Arf's beauty or wish you could, please help us. If 30,000 women sent us \$5 each, we could save Arf. If 6,000 sent us \$25, we could save Arf. If 300 benefit dances netted \$500 each, or if 15 wealthy women gave \$10,000 each, we could save Arf. And if Arf is saved, it will be here for all of us, women in need, women in love, for generations to come.

(Come visit us at our summer solstice celebration, June 16-24. To send donations or information about potential donors, or to receive further information about solstice, write: Arf New Mexico Women's Land Trust, P.O. Box 707, Tesuque, New Mexico 87574. Or call: (505) 989-8627.)

Arf Women's Land Community
Tesuque, N.M.

in the system of women's oppression. Bisexuality works to subvert the gender system and everything it upholds because it is not based on gender. In addition, bisexual identity and struggle lend themselves in a special way to exploring the possibility that women and men are "more alike than different," and that variations in human character bear no intrinsic connection to biological sex.

Bisexuality subverts gender; bisexual liberation also depends on the subversion of gender categories. The same can be said of lesbian and gay liberation. As the concept that female and male human natures are fundamentally different and unequal fades from cultural consciousness, persecution of lesbians (as "mannish" women) and gay men (as "effeminate" males) will decline accordingly. Women no longer will be expected to be pleasing to men; men no longer will need to dominate women or other men to feel worthwhile. Along with their common resistance to compulsory heterosexuality, it is in this way that we see the struggles of lesbians, bisexuals and gay men as inextricably linked — to one another and to the struggle for women's liberation.

We believe that bisexual women need to have an understanding of the importance of lesbian community and identity in their own struggle. But it is also important for lesbians to understand that women who choose to call themselves bisexual don't necessarily do so out of a lack of commitment to women or to the struggle against heterosexism. It could simply be that that is what they are. Taking on an identity that doesn't in all honesty fit because it's supposed to be "more radical" is not a good place to move from — personally or politically. And as we have said, the existence of bisexuality can be understood as a radical challenge to the order of male dominance.

While we believe bisexuality to be a significant challenge to the system of gender, we do not think that bisexuals are "better" or "more advanced" than other

people because they "love everyone" as some have been known to say. In fact, bisexuals in heterosexual relationships have to face sexism more than lesbians and gay men do in their relationships. And, as with any social class, the politicization of bisexuals is uneven. While an identity (lesbian, bisexual, gay) may inherently subvert the status quo, everyone has been socialized under patriarchy, and anyone can behave in ways that support oppressive systems. But a visible, radical bisexual movement, working in conscious alliance with lesbians and gay men, can only encourage more bisexuals to come out and join in our common struggle.

In fact, we have noticed that the number of out bisexuals is indeed growing. This is undoubtedly because of a breakdown of traditional male-female roles and sexual norms — mainly the result of feminism and the lesbian and gay liberation movement(s). The issue of bisexuals' place in this struggle will continue to be raised, and it will not help to pretend that bisexuals don't exist, or to lump them together with "heterosexual allies." A politicized bisexual movement can play a significant role in the struggle to end women's oppression and for lesbian and gay liberation. A lesbian and gay liberation movement that is unable to recognize this will make the politicization process that much more difficult.

The many bisexuals who have participated in the march in the past have done so not out of charity, but in the interest of their own liberation. There is much that needs to happen in the creation of a politicized bisexual community, but we believe the conscious inclusion of bisexuals in this movement to be a key step in the struggle against heterosexism and male dominance. At one time the march's title did not refer to "pride," but to "liberation." Next year, while including bisexuals in all aspects of the march, let's bring back the radical vision of the former title and call it the Lesbian, Bisexual and Gay Liberation March.

invitations to join a 'Mutual Club' professing to have members that have the same interests you do, along with a questionnaire as to your likes and dislikes as to sex partners, emphasizing age, throw it in the trash.

If you fill it out and send it back, in about 2 to 8 weeks you may receive an answer from a Postal inspector pretending to be a person that has the same interest you do (usually child porn). He will have photos to trade from outside the U.S. He will try hard to find out from you about your collection, and may supply a very vivid description of his photos. You will never get a full address (just a postal box) or phone number from him. He will tell you that his mother is old, he travels, he is an insurance salesman, etc. etc.

If he gets you to agree to trade, the first thing that happens is he will send you a package 'certified, addressee only'. This package may contain photos of juveniles engaged in explicit sexual conduct and if you SIGN THE RECEIPT (simply!), you have violated postal law. This is entrapment. Even if you don't open it, you can be charged with 'receiving'. Under the 'New' sentencing guidelines (1987) you may spend up to 8½ years of your life in prison.

This entrapment scheme is going on all over the U.S. Any letters you send describing your likes will show up in court as evidence.

If you are arrested, DO NOT TALK without an attorney present. If they come with a search warrant, any and all items they are looking for must be listed and you should be present during the search.

Beware doing business by mail.

One who knows from experience,
A prisoner

Putting the gaiety back in "gay"

Dear GCN:

I always liked the poems of Walt Whitman, those joyous, expansive songs singing of self and democracy, and felt so good after reading them, more so when I found out that his self-righteous snooperviser snooping through his desk found some gay stuff and had him fired from his job. How could he go on singing? But he did even more joyous songs.

One day I caught a glimpse of my face in the mirror, almost as solemn and dour as that of one of our senators that we see occasionally on TV.

About this time I read the words of a 19th century orator. He said: "Solemnity is a condition precedent to believing anything without evidence. And if you can only get a man solemn enough, awed enough, he will believe anything." And again: "Laughter is the blessed boundary between brute and man."

Why are we called gay when I am so solemn? I began a treatment of the condition. I began to chuckle everytime I heard or read about our sickest homophobes. Then I tried a full belly laugh at their pretentious authoritarian titles and when listening to some fellow on TV, I don't remember his name, saying that he drew a line at race, but could say anything on TV he wanted about gays, I added slapping of thighs to the belly laugh.

This procedure may not help everyone but it helped me and put the gaiety back into gay.

Our nineteenth century orator advised: "Let us get all we can of the good between cradle and grave, all that we can of the truly dramatic, all that we can of enjoyment."

May I add, laugh a lot!

Zane Gilstrap
Joshua Tree, Calif.

Women's land endangered

Dear GCN:

Many women traveling through New Mexico or needing a foothold while moving to costly Santa Fe have offered up thanks for the existence of Arf. Arf is a beautiful isolated refuge of meadow, stream and steep slopes, wooded with willow, oak, cottonwood, juniper, pinyon and ponderosa, just 12 miles from town.

Occupying 25 acres of Pacheco canyon in the foothills of the Sangre de Cristo mountains, Arf has been women's community land for over 10 years. Twelve dwellings offer short or long-term housing for nature-loving women short of funds, in crisis, in healing or in search of new woman friends. Campsites abound. But now Arf is in danger of slipping through our fingers.

Some original signers of Arf's deed, who

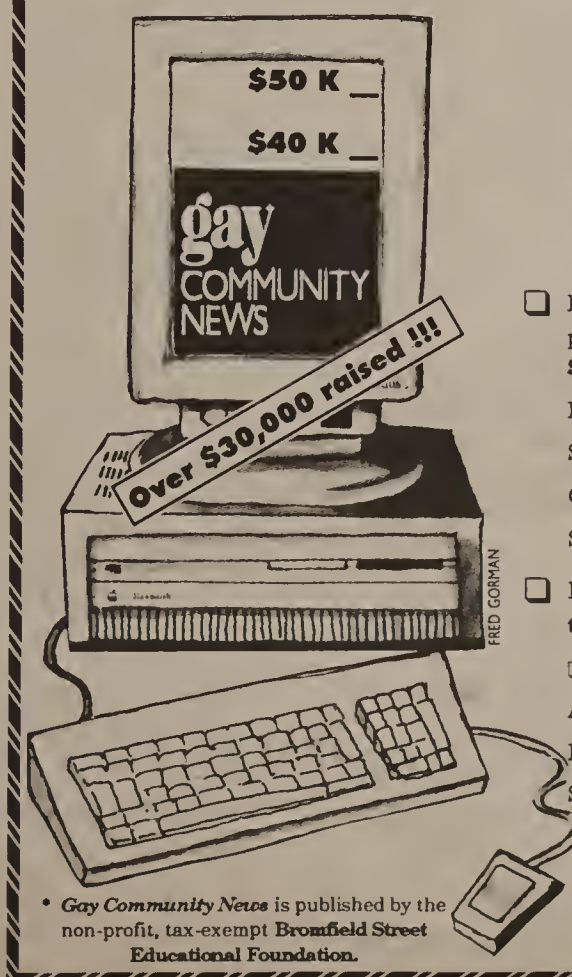
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NIH

Continued from page 1



MICHAEL GALVIN

people of color, the economically disadvantaged, and recovering drug users from trials of experimental treatments.

"I'm a woman of color and a mother," said Sharpe. "Both me and my baby are infected. Women and children in my community don't get the care they need. We don't have access to trials. Basically, they don't even study women," she said. Pointing to recent New York City statistics which indicate that six out of ten newly diagnosed persons with AIDS are Black or Latino, Sharpe added that of the ten trial participants, only two will be of color.

She noted that pregnant women are also refused entry into most trials. "Bactrim and AZT, that's all they're giving the poor," said Sharpe.

Women activists within the AIDS movement have long contended that the ACTG has ignored the plight of women with AIDS. They charge that the ACTG refuses to recognize that opportunistic infections for women are different than those for men and that women with AIDS die six times faster than men.

"Women need to be included in AIDS treatment trials," said ACT UP/New York's Maxine Wolfe during a pre-action meeting. She emphasized that women "need to be included not as the sexual partners of men, the carriers of fetuses, or as mothers, but as women."

NIH security — assisted by Maryland State Police, Montgomery County Police, and mounted U.S. Park Rangers — arrested the 60 protesters on the NIH campus as office workers looked on. One group of office workers placed a "Go to hell" sign in their seventh floor window, prompting demonstrators to chant "Remove that sign." The sign was eventually removed to the cheers of the crowd but not before three U.S. Department of Health and Human Services vehicles parked in front of the building were covered in stickers, ribbons, and had the air let out of their tires. Other office workers more sympathetic to the demonstrators flashed victory signs and held upraised lists.

The first of the arrests, all characterized as brutal by witnesses and arrestees alike, occurred when an unidentified woman threw herself down in front of marching police to block their passage. Dragged to a grassy knoll the woman was rolled over, handcuffed, and hoisted aloft only to be dropped repeatedly before being dragged away by one ankle.

Hirsch's Kisses, a Boston-based affinity group named after key ACTG decision-maker Dr. Martin Hirsch, whose Harvard Medical School trials of DDI have come under attack by ACT UP/Boston, also met with violence. The activists were maced, clubbed and stomped upon by Maryland State Police when they stormed the snow fence barricade shielding the NIH administration building.

"None of us expected the police to be so fortified and so we never expected to get in," said Patrick Santana. "Our action was purely symbolic. At some point you have to put your body on the line for what you believe in. And yet it's such a simple message we're trying to get across that we really shouldn't have to be there like this." The 12-member Hirsch group was herded into a nearby bus station where they were held for two hours without medical attention.

Twenty-one other protesters, calling themselves the "Costas" and including members of ACT UP/D.C., were arrested four miles away in the Executive Park office

of ACTG Coordinator Dr. Daniel Hoth. "The office takeover had lasted for over an hour before we were arrested," said Rod Sorge, a member of the Costas, who had

Continued on page 11

Foster care

Continued from page 1

Lesbian Defense Committee (GLDC) member Cathy Hoffman. She said that Pierce introduced the measure to advance his bid for governor, and that other gubernatorial candidates are lining up for and against the measure. On the Democratic side, Evelyn Murphy and Frank Bellotti oppose the amendment, while John Flood and John Silber have expressed support.

"Once again, people are using our community to move themselves along politically, at the expense of children, the entire foster care system, and lesbians and gay men," said Hoffman.

"It's incredible that people are cloaking this extreme right-wing bigotry as centrist politics. It's a message to me that we have to be bold again. As the right-wing gets more and more brazen, it seems like the left gets quieter and quieter," Hoffman told GCN. "I think we have to see this as a call to action."

"If ever there was a time when we should use direct action, this is the time," said David LaFontaine of the Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights. "It's a fascist policy — it is legislating discrimination."

"This is such blatant homophobia," echoed Connie Chan, a lesbian mother and a psychologist. "The research really points strongly to how well-adjusted the children of lesbian and gay parents are."

More to come?

Another anti-gay foster parenting amendment filed by Marie Parente (D-Milford) has not been voted on yet. According to Isaacson, Parente may have been persuaded to withdraw the amendment, but she said, "We are keeping a close eye on it." There had been no move on the Parente measure by GCN's press time.

Parente's measure would ban all unmarried people from becoming foster parents. According to DSS spokesperson Lorraine Carli, about half of all foster parents are unmarried. At a time when DSS estimates a need for an additional 100 foster parents in the Boston area alone, said Carli, such a measure would put the already strained system into "severe crisis." □

Rhode Island

Continued from page 3

deficits, they also sponsored a "Shopping in the Free State" action, in which a caravan drove to Massachusetts to shop where the sales tax would support a state that already had a lesbian and gay civil rights law.

In contrast, organized opposition to the bill has thus far been slight. Only a handful of opponents, most associated with fundamentalist Christian denominations, have argued against the bill publicly. The statewide daily paper, *The Providence Journal*, which has written editorials opposing the bill for the last two years, did not oppose this year's measure. The Catholic Church has also been silent on the issue.

The passage last fall of a civil rights bill in neighboring Massachusetts galvanized local activists. "Most of the impact of the Massachusetts bill has been in the gay community itself," said the Alliance's Thompson. "We looked at the things done in Massachusetts." In particular, he said that the concessions made in that state influenced local activists' decision to allow the religious exemption and limiting language. The Massachusetts law is narrowed in a similar way.

Rhode Island's size worked to the advantage of the bill, according to Burke. The peculiar, almost small-town nature of state politics made the fight more personal, and perhaps easier. "You can put off a special interest group," said Burke. "You can't put off your neighbor." Rhode Island legislators are not professional politicians, but put their regular jobs on hold for the 60-day session, for which they are paid five dollars a day.

Activists expect a vote in the House Judiciary Committee around the beginning of June, and a vote by the full House about two weeks later. They feel they may be able to garner a win. "I don't know if we'll make it this year," said Burke, "but I hope to hell we do."

□ filed from Boston

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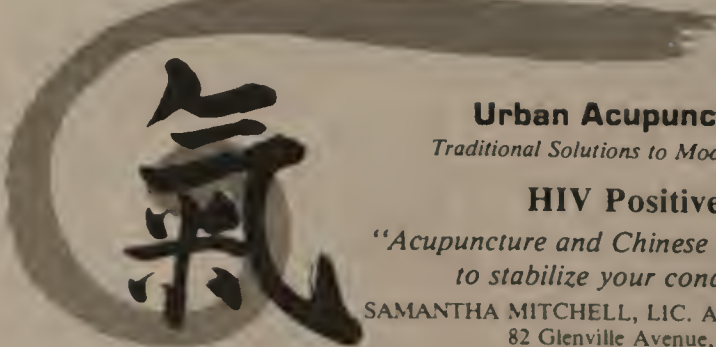
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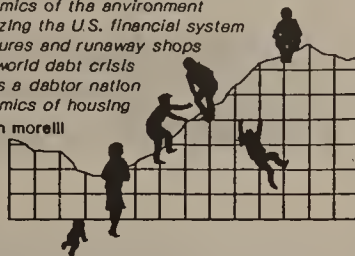
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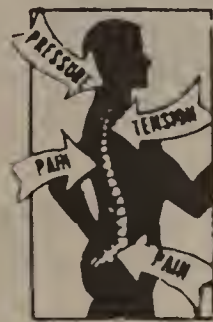
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Oh, what a festival!

Listen to Frank O'Hara and take in as much of the New York International Festival of Lesbian and Gay Film as possible



The New York International Festival of Lesbian and Gay Film, 1990 (also known as "The New Festival"). At the Biograph Cinema, 225 West 57th Street, New York City. General information: (212) 966-5656. Recorded program information: (212) 966-7722. May 31-June 17.

By Liz Galst

Alh June, that month of lesbian and gay liberation. And what could be more liberating than plunking oneself down in New York's Biograph Cinema for the entire eighteen-day run of The New York International Festival of Lesbian and Gay Film?

And this year's festival offers premieres! Premieres, premieres galore! Seventeen of them, in fact. The pre-eminent premiere (this is my opinion, of course) is Beban Kidron's screen adaptation of Jeanette Winterson's *Oranges Are Not The Only Fruit*; screenplay by Jeanette herself. *Oranges* is the story of a Lancashire girlhood, and more particularly, of Jess' efforts to become a normal lesbian (whatever that may be) despite her mother's attempts to turn her into a missionary.



'Oranges Are Not The Only Fruit'

Two other British premieres: Stuart Marshall's *Comrades in Arms*, a documentary about six lesbians and gay men in the British armed forces during WWII. Marshall has said of this project, "I expected to hear stories of persecution and oppression but I was pleasantly surprised to discover that most of the people we talked to in our research had a riotous time." No doubt you will, too. Marshall's film shares the opening night bill with Joy Chamberlain's *Nocturne*, another world premiere (not to be confused, though, with Mark Harris' *Nocturne*, which also premieres at this, what is euphemistically known as, the New Festival). Chamberlain's *Nocturne* is the somewhat bizarre story of a 45-year-old woman who returns to her family home for her mother's funeral to discover, with the help of two lesbian runaways, the source of her repression and her desire.

Besides premiering a lot of premieres this year (does this make them the world's premier lesbian and gay film festival?), the New Festival will also be presenting a large number of works by filmmakers of color (sorry, no premieres). Don't miss Marlon Riggs' *Tongues Untied*, a wonderful, personal film on African-American gay life. Also, if Isaac Julien's *Looking For Langston*, a meditation on Black gay experience, has somehow passed you by, you'll have a couple of chances to catch it at the New Festival. Julien's music video/gay desire 10-minute promo piece *This Is Not An AIDS Advertisement* will be screened as part of the Fun Video Mix program. Two films by Indian lesbian filmmaker Pratibha Parmar have been programmed into the New Festival. *Flesh & Paper* is a half-hour portrait of U.S.-based Indian lesbian poet and writer Suniti Namjoshi. Parmar's *Memory Pictures* is a profile of gay Indian photographer Sunil Gupta, and an investigation into the issues of sexual and racial identity in his work. In *How To Kill Her*, a 10-minute, black-and-white short about an obsessed lover, Latina director Ana Maria Simo brings that wacky East Village lesbian



"Comrades In Arms"

sensibility to the screen. *How To Kill Her* shares a program with *Dreams of Passion*, African-American director Aarin Burch's five-minute short about intimacy and desire between Black women. Native American director Renee White Rabbit tells the story of Carol Lafavor, an Ojibwe woman with AIDS in *Her Giveaway*.

To top this all off, the New Festival is offering a panel discussion on people of color and representation in lesbian and gay film called "Under Repair: The Construction of Ethnicity and Gender in Film and Video." The panel will be moderated by our own Jewelle Gomez and features writer and filmmaker Michelle Parkerson (*Storme: Lady of The Jewel Box*), Marlon Riggs, Pratibha Parmar, and Richard Fung, a Canadian video producer. The panel discussion is free. A companion program of video works by artists of color precedes the discussion. In this program, look for a sneak preview of Parkerson's new documentary on Audre Lorde and *Honored By The Moon*, a look at the historical legacy and contemporary lives of Native American lesbians and gay men.

The festival is also featuring two pieces on voguing by white filmmakers. In case you're not a voguer and you haven't seen the latest video by Sandra Bernhard's ex-girlfriend, voguing is a kind of dancing, a combination of break dancing and posing that originated in Black and Latino gay social clubs. The first of the two films is *Paris is Burning*, a documentary by Jennie Livingston, which follows the lives of some New York voguers,



"Paris is Burning"

and examines the worlds they inhabit. *Paris is Burning* receives its world premiere here, and there's only one showing, so get there early. Voguing fans should also catch *Voguing: The Message*, which is playing as part of the Fun Video Mix. Madonna, eat your heart out!

There's tons more stuff at the New Festival that I haven't even touched on. Like the fact that lots of the wonderful programs from the British T.V. Channel Four's "Out on Tuesday" series will grace the Biograph screen and god knows you're not going to see them on the boob tube over here. There are many compelling works about AIDS. And, perhaps the frosting on the cake of this festival, you can see Barbara Stanwyck

Continued on page 9

A multitude of choices

Inspired programming makes this year's New Festival one of the best ever

Focus on Film



"Crocodiles in Amsterdam"

By Alisa S. Lebow

I strongly recommend taking in as many entries in the New Festival as possible so you can fully appreciate the breadth and depth of this film festival. Inspired curating — not to mention a new and vigorous commitment to programming more material by lesbians, people of color and overtly political filmmakers — is bound to make this year's New Festival the best ever.

New additions to the festival, which I hope will be permanently incorporated, are the four focus series: Women Direct; Gay Asia; AIDS, and Parting Glances. The Women Direct series features, as you might have guessed, women directors. Patty White of "Women Make Movies" has curated an exciting collection of films and videos (consciously recognizing that lesbians tend to shoot video due to budgetary limitations); some with lesbian themes, others simply directed by lesbians, thus refusing to capitulate to the claim that a lesbian film must be lesbian-themed.



"With Beauty & Sorrow"

The Gay Asia series is particularly worth noting, featuring, among other selections, three films from Thailand. When was the last time you saw a gay Thai film? This series is clearly an attempt to include gay filmmakers of color as well as non-European foreign films and I think it will really enhance the festival. The AIDS series is a virtual necessity in any Gay and/or Lesbian film/video festival considering how amazingly prolific our community has been in representing the epidemic in its many manifestations. The range included in the festival runs from the mainstream (Academy Award winning) *Common Threads* to Ellen Shapiro's not-to-be-missed community-oriented *Diana's Hair Ego*, about a hairdresser in the South who responds to the lack of accurate AIDS information by transforming her hair salon into an AIDS education center. Women discuss negotiating condom use with their partners while having their hair washed. Please!

The Parting Glances series draws from the annals of gay and lesbian cinematic history, making sure that these films never fade into obscurity. If you haven't seen *Taxi*

Zum Klo, *Law of Desire*, *Desert Hearts*, *She Must Be Seeing Things* or *Novembermoon*, you'll get your chance this year.

I could go on about the extraordinary films and videos included in this festival, but eventually I'd have to review the films I screened. So I might as well get to it.

There are times in life when you choose wrong. It's nobody's fault. It just happens sometimes. And then there are times when no matter how willing or eager you might be, you are the wrong person for the job. And two wrongs never have made a right.

When I was approached to screen some of the films for this year's International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival, the choices were wide open. I was lucky, I could pick any of the countless enticing films to review. Who could have guessed that my penchant for choosing the slowest check-out line in the grocery store and the longest toll lane would be a transferable skill. In a festival packed with fabulous films, some premiering for the first time, others unearthed by some queer film aficionado — like Dorothy Arzner's 1933 classic *Christopher Strong* (starring a very sleek, young and relentlessly butch Katherine Hepburn) — I happened to pick two losers.

Actually, I'm not even sure they were losers. It is entirely possible that if I were a different person, I would have found them both quite pleasurable for one reason or another. But I was simply the wrong person for the job.

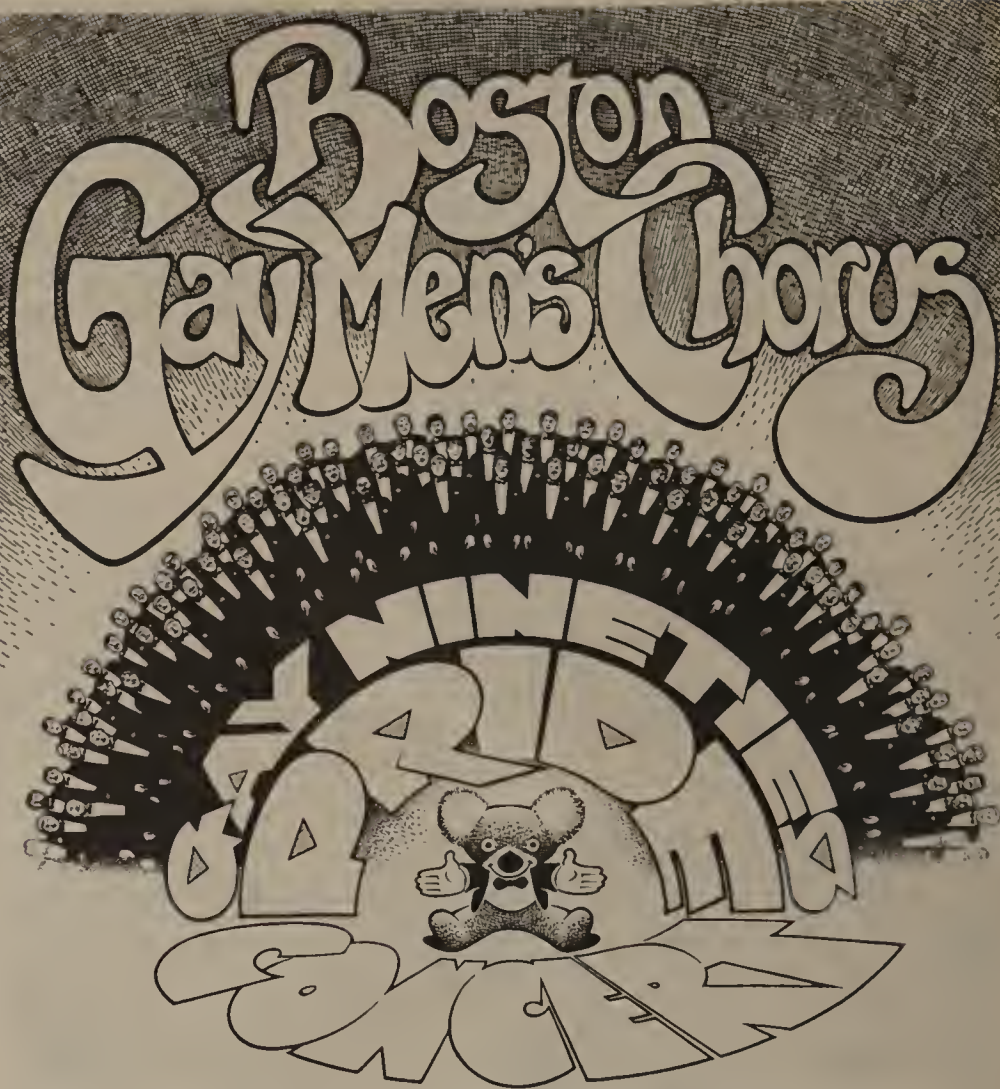


"Taxi Zum Klo"

No Need to Repent (Ann Alter, USA 1989) was not the right film for a Jewish lesbian from New York City to be reviewing. A biographical documentary about an out, lesbian minister living in the Midwest somewhere, was just a bit of a stretch for my sympathies. It didn't help that a biographical ballad reciting the many heroic deeds of Rev. Jan Griesinger, sung by a Holly Near sound-alike, is used as a vehicle to weave the various segments into an integrated whole. To my ears, it sounded tired and clichéd. Jan herself is actually quite a sympathetic subject and does come across as brave, strong and determined, even from my distant (and resistant) perspective. I'm sure she could be an inspiring role model for many lesbians around the country, and the film serves as an acknowledgment of her unique contribution to the United Church of Christ and a tribute to her irrepressible spirit. There is definitely an audience for this film and good reasons for it to have been included in this festival; it matters that we have as many different role models as we can find. If you are interested in a straight-forward, '70s-style documentary about a lesbian-feminist activist who has succeeded in forcing her church to move over and make room, no apologies and "no regrets," then this is the film for you. As for me, I found myself wondering why Alter had spent all that money to shoot film, when video would have done just fine. I wasn't hooked.

The second film I screened was *Crocodiles in Amsterdam* (Annette Apon, Netherlands, 1989). *Crocodiles* is a light-hearted, fanciful romp with two unlikely women who fall into friendship through their mutual, mesmerizing attraction to a certain shade of blue. It is billed as a female

Continued on page 9



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Galst

Continued from page 7

betray the lesbian nation for some itinerant
named Harvey in the 1962 *Walk On The
Wild Side*. So remember (and I probably
don't need to remind too many of you of this)
you only live once. Maybe you can get a
leave of absence from your job if you have
one; or sneak in the exit if you don't. But
heed the words of that *faygela* poet Frank
O'Hara: go to the movies! □

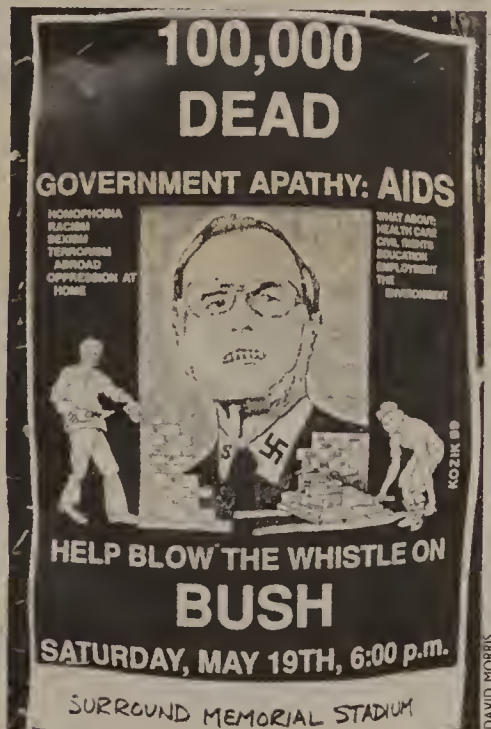
Lebow

Continued from page 8

"buddy" film, which basically means that
you might as well stop searching because
you are *not* going to find a sex scene.
Though perfectly pleasant, I found the film
frivolous and very thin on plot. The adventures
of the odd couple, Gino (the free-
spirited blonde) and Nina (the hot-headed
activist...more like rebel without a cause
and not much flair), are slightly madcap,
slightly ill-conceived and completely detached
from reality. This is all well and good
if you like that sort of thing. I just find it
frustrating, unless there is something in the
script or the technical direction to keep me
interested. And while there are some
unusual touches, like free-associative cut-
aways and a surreal, strictly subjective sense
of time defined solely by the women's relationship,
which lend a feeling of suspended animation —
like time is standing still for them — these
flights from convention are not quite enough
to carry the film along. For those who don't
expect anything but fun and flights of fancy
from their films, this one will do quite nicely.
As long as you don't expect anything more. □

Texas

Continued from page 3



about Central America, reproductive rights
and the environment. A group of members
and supporters of the United Farm Workers
marched to the commencement protest after
holding an eight-hour protest at a super-
market.

The anti-Bush action follows a series of
angry and well-attended demonstrations led
by the Black Students' Alliance (BSA) in
response to UT's lenient treatment of two
fraternities accused of racism. In early
April, the fraternities distributed t-shirts
with racist drawings on them and paraded a
car covered with racist graffiti. UT later
suspended the fraternities for a year, a
punishment the activists found inadequate.

Black students have since drafted a docu-
ment, Proposed Reforms to Institute Diver-
sity in Education (PRIDE), calling for cur-
ricula reform and the establishment of an
African-American Culture Institute at the
university. PRIDE urges required course
work in African-American history and
culture and inclusion in other courses.
Hispanic and Asian-American students
have written similar documents. UT has not
yet responded to the proposals.

A month before the racist incidents, cam-
pus progressives chose one of their own as
Student Association president. Toni
Luckett, the first out lesbian and the first
African-American to be elected to that posi-
tion, is outspoken about her political views.
"I'm after the mentality that says the ruling
elite of the university is neutral," Luckett
told a writer for *The Guardian*. "That's
bullshit. Look at the billions UT has in
South Africa. Look at the type of literature
taught in our classes. And then look at what

class and race and gender the Board of
Regents comes from. We have got to connect
the dots," she said.

Luckett's election and the anti-racism
protests have catalyzed internal changes
within at least two campus organizations.
"We are already and increasingly a part of
what's going on around here," a member of
University Lesbians told *GCN* at an anti-
racism rally in April. "Now that people
within the university and in the departments
recognize each other and there's more self-
identification as lesbians, we can come out
with a banner like this [reading, 'University
Lesbians'] and really act more overtly."

The question of whether or not to support
the BSA protests resulted in discussion and
self-examination within the predominantly
male Gay and Lesbian Students Association
(GLSA). Daniel Contreras, a member of
GLSA and of *Todos Unidos*, an umbrella
Chicano organization, told *GCN* that
GLSA is perceived on campus as a white
organization. "Learning a more inclusive
theory of liberation, of what we really want,
that's what we're all about," he said.

"It's really interesting what the politics of
the '90's are going to be like," Contreras
continued. "It seems to be a lot of coalition
work, more than ever, which calls for a
more rigorous analysis of race and class and
sexuality. Because these are no longer going
to be tacked-on things, they're going to be a
vital part of any organization that wants to
achieve anything in this country."

George Bush, in the meantime, appears to
have a different view of liberation. "To
graduate from college in America," he said
in his commencement address, "is to be as
free as any man or woman can be." □

Sodomy

Continued from page 3

tunity" poster she had seen in the police
department. "I held it up to the mayor and
said, 'You are not an equal opportunity
employer. This poster is out of date,' " said
England.

William Waybourn, president of the
Dallas Gay Alliance, said that his group put
England in touch with Lambda. Waybourn
told *GCN* that, like Wolfson, he thought the
specificity of England's grievance made for
a strong case. "We've been waiting for
someone like Mica to walk through our
door," he said.

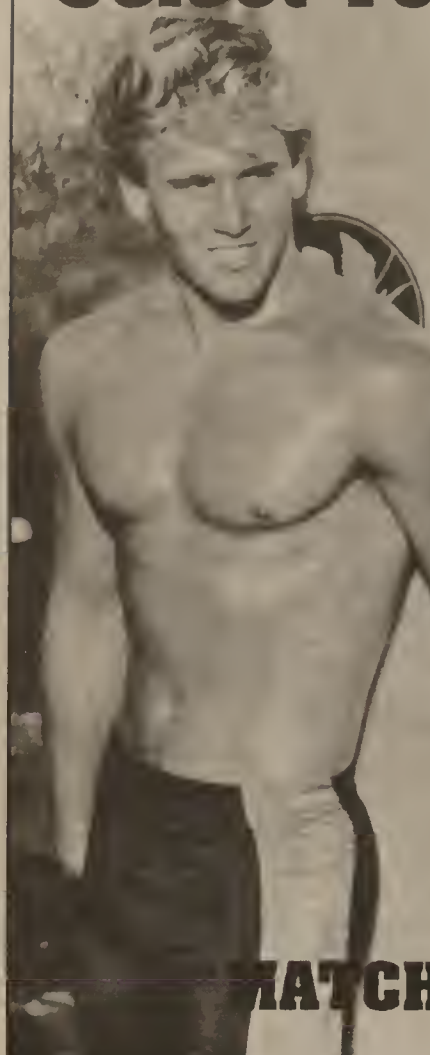
Other activists in Texas see England's suit
as a positive development in the fight
against sodomy laws. Glen Moxey, ex-
ecutive director of the Lesbian and Gay
Rights Lobby of Texas, told *GCN* that the
legislative battle against sodomy laws here is
slow-moving. He estimated that anti-
sodomy lobbying would have to continue in
Texas for at least four to ten years. Given
that pace, said Moxey, "opportunities for
litigation are appealing."

Moxey added that one advantage
England might have is that the Texas Bill of
Rights, which England's suit cites, "is ex-
tremely clear on the rights of individuals to
be free from government intrusion into their
private lives." (He said that Texans who
drafted their bill of rights during the post-
Civil War Reconstruction were eager to
keep Yankee influence in their lives at a
minimum.)

At the national level, lesbian and gay
activists who have been working to repeal
sodomy laws also agree that an anti-discrim-
ination lawsuit has some political advan-
tages over lobbying efforts. Sue Hyde,
director of the Privacy Project at the
National Gay and Lesbian Task Force
(NGLTF) in Washington, maintained that
lawmakers are wary of repealing even the
most regressive laws because any motion
forward could be denounced by right-wing
politicians as "pro-sex." For lesbian and
gay lobbying, she said, "There isn't an issue
that's going to be more difficult than this.
Nobody wants to vote on sex."

Hyde said that England's lawsuit reveals
that "sodomy laws are used in discrimina-
tory ways,"

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'Companion'

Continued from back page

the first time; Lucas has short circuited the usual narrative devices and we drift, emotionally unattached for a short period of time. This same sensation is reflected, somewhat, in Lucas's uncompromising approach to the details of his material. Characters speak of KS, and poppers, and even ACT UP — phrases which are commonplace to most urban gay men — without explanation or excuse. We, and especially straight audiences, must accept the details of these gay male lives as authentic in and of themselves. This radical visioning makes *Longtime Companion* fell very *verite* but also somewhat insular. Lucas is so intent on preserving the exactness of gay speech and conversation that it takes on a life of its own and it is quite apart from what we are used to hearing on screen.

This insistence on recreating a small circle of gay friends limits the scope of what *Longtime Companion* might have been, but in no way impugns its integrity. If anything, this gay-only vision has infatuated some critics. In an extremely homophobic review in the *New York Times*, Vincent Canby dismissed the film and complained bitterly that it dealt only with rich, white, privileged gay men and about the lack of people of color on screen. (Besides the fact that this is not a true representation of these men's lives, when was the last time that the *New York Times* ever complained about the prevalence of rich, white anyone in films? Canby also complained that the men were "all handsome and interchangeable" — a comment which recalled his predecessor Bosley Crowther implying that you couldn't tell apart the Black actors in the 1959 *Porgy and Bess*.) And while it is true that Lucas has chosen to focus on a specific group of men — the group who were the first reported cases of AIDS in New York — the problems caused by this are not one of exclusion but rather of audience expectations. There is no way that any one film on AIDS is going to address all of the questions and concerns of a diverse audience — we need fifty films about AIDS, not one perfect one. But more to the point, *Longtime Companion* is not going to even begin to deal with the intense emotional investment that audiences — especially gay male audiences — will bring to the material. Lucas knows this and the specificity of his attempt to survey and witness the way that ten people learn to deal with AIDS is an acknowledgment that, even within a large community, these stories are both singular and important, remarkable and unremarkable.

Longtime Companion is shocking and moving in its forthright attempt to make us look at the lives that AIDS touches. It is (almost completely) unsentimental and non-manipulative; a brave attempt to reach our hearts without resorting to cheap stunts or false sympathy. It takes some big chances and expects us to meet it halfway with intelligence and wit. And on top of all that it presents us with a political vision of not only AIDS, but of a gay male community acting and growing. And if there aren't yet fifty movies detailing the effects of AIDS, *Longtime Companion* is close to a perfect beginning. □

NIH

Continued from page 6

sought but was denied a dialogue with Hoth. An unofficial press conference, termed a "press availability session" by NIH press officer Bob Schreiber, was held shortly after the demonstration. The press conference took place contrary to a statement previously supplied by Don Rolbowski, another NIH press officer, who earlier in the day had said there would be no press conference following the demonstration.

Schreiber said on Tuesday there was no intent to bar the gay press from Monday's "press availability session" and that he was unaware of a request by GCN — transmitted to Rolbowski — to attend Monday's press session should there be one. Rolbowski was unavailable for comment.

Washington Post reporters who were able to attend Monday's limited "press availability session" quoted William F. Raub, acting director of NIH, in the May 22 *Post* as saying, "We deeply sympathize with the pain, fears, and frustration of the demonstrators, but they are sadly misinformed about NIH actions." □

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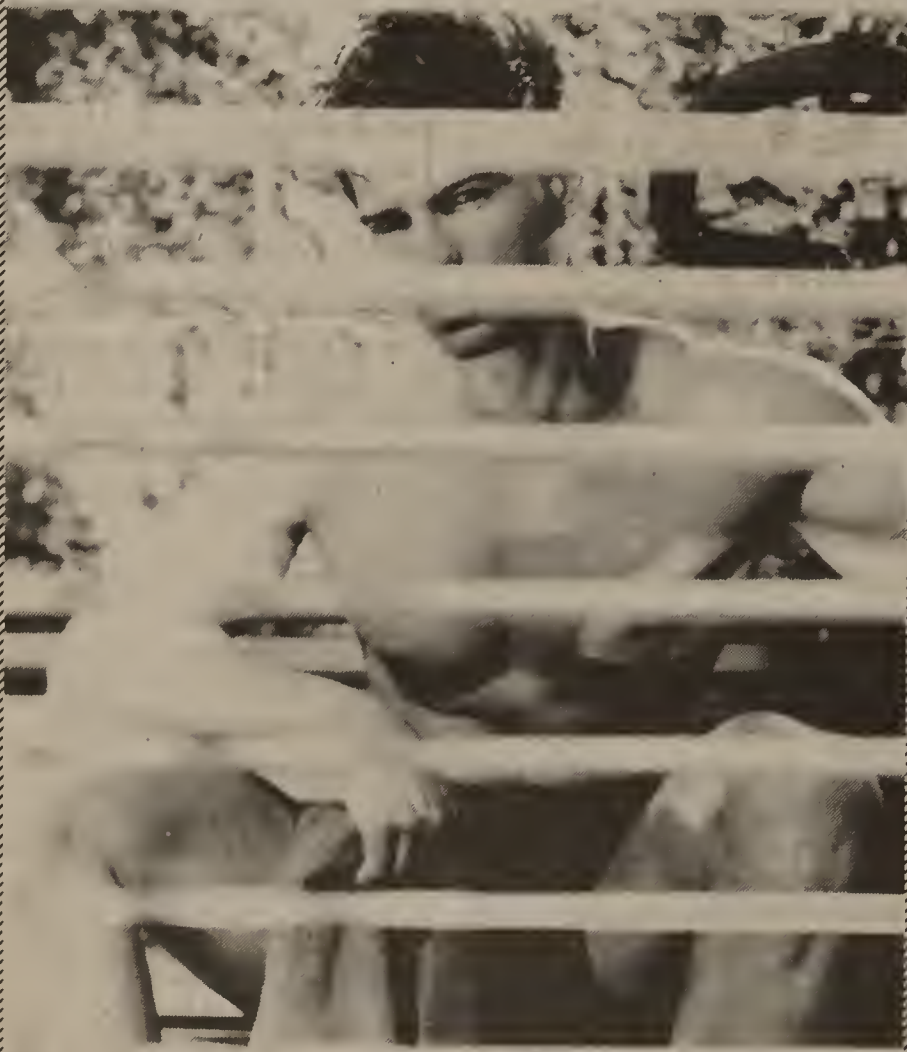
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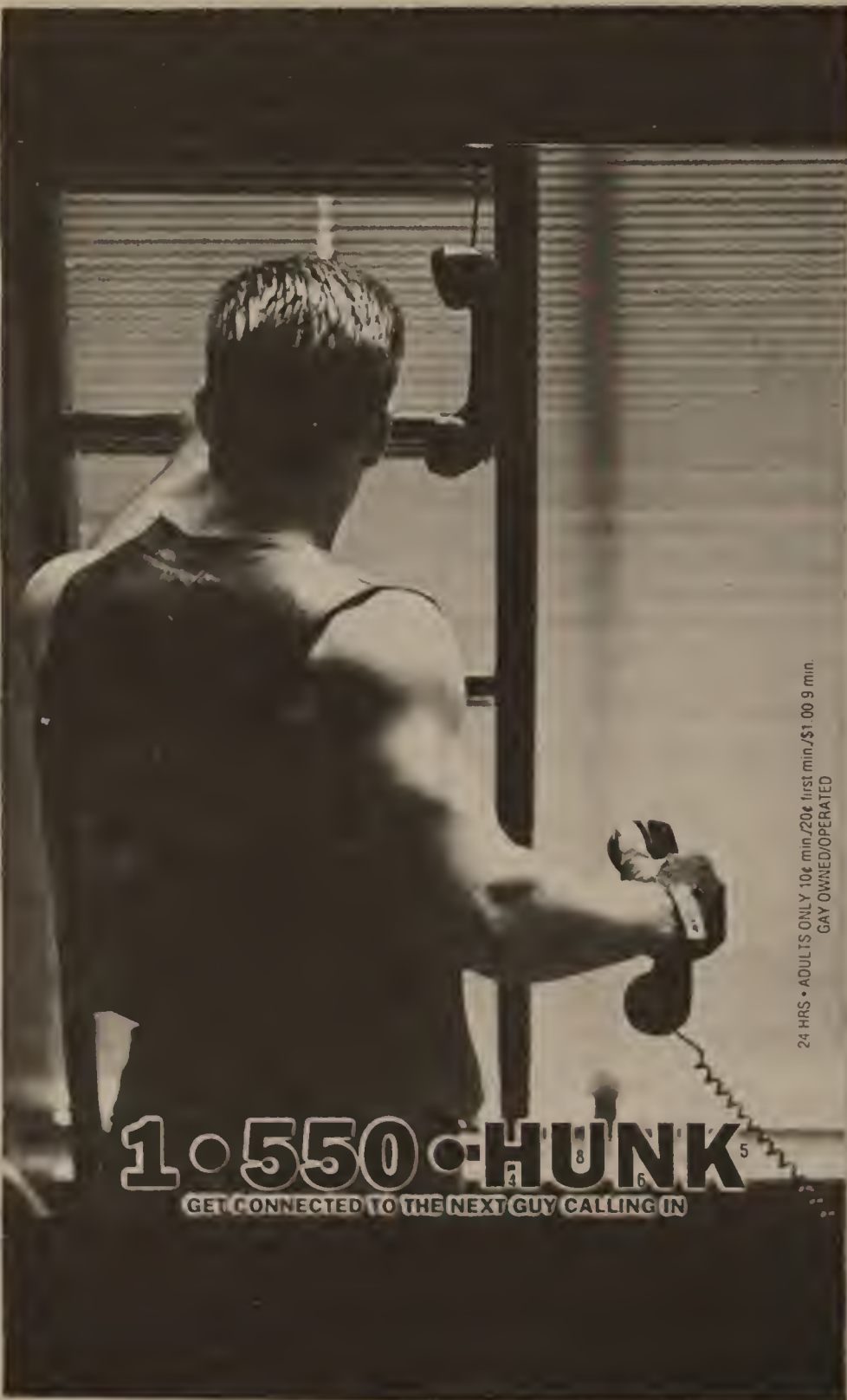
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A lesbian sex magazine. Irreverent and Hot! \$12 for one
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Cambridge, MA 02139. (16.33)

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mentary, analysis, reviews, cartoons & humor by and
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if/less if. LesCon, 584 Castro, No. 236G, SF, CA 94114.
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02181 (ex)

BLACK/OUT

Special 10th Anniv. edition of *Black/Out* now available.
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for Black Lesbians and Gays contains essays, reviews,
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ORGANIZATIONS

OLDER LESBIAN ENERGY

Social and support group for women over 40. P.O. Box
1214, East Arlington, MA 02174. (15.48)

BLACK AND WHITE MEN TOGETHER

Multiracial group for all people. Call (415) 431-1976 or
write BWMT, suite 140, 584 Castro St. SF, CA, 94114.
(16.1)

BOSTON ALLIANCE OF GAY AND LESBIAN YOUTH

Social support group for youth 22 and under. Wed.
night general meeting from 7:30-9pm. New persons
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Canada M5W 1W4. REMEMBER: Canadian postage is
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PRISON ISSUE !!

The prison issue of *New Studies on the Left* is
EXCELLENT on political issues about imprison-
ment and 'criminal justice'! If you're interested
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can't afford it. Write: Saxifrage Publishing, 1484
Wicklow Blvd, Boulder CO 80303.

The following newspapers are **FREE** to
prisoners: *Open Road*, *No Picnic*, *The
Kite*. Ohio 7 *Dare to Struggle*, *Dare to
Win*. Send them your criticisms of the
prison 'injustice' business (\$). Write: In-
side Out, Box 2881, Vancouver BC,
Canada V6B 3X4. (30 cents postage!)

GAY LEGAL EAGLE 'coming out'!

If he can find a place to work and live. Please
consider helping Darrell out, because he's been
helping out gay prisoners (and others) for years
now and really deserves our support. Drop him
a line with any info you have on job
possibilities, with questions, and a note of en-
couragement. Thanks! Herbert Darrell HAY,
263672, Wynne Unit, Huntsville TX 77349.

CONVICTIONS, a magazine of poetry, art, fiction,
news, law analysis and more; by and for prisoners and
their people. Comes out 4 times a year. \$8/year for
prisoners. Write: Convictions, Box 1749, Corvallis OR
97339.

My friends call me 'Miss Tiny'. I'm 21, good
looking with little mouse size tits that would like
to be sucked on by a hot man. If you would like
to know more write me. I can write other
prisoners. Enrique PAGAN, 89T 3368, Box
149, Attica NY 14011.

Imaginative, refined, exquisite, vigorous, lonely
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Lucasville OH 45699.

28 yr old Black bisexual that love it both ways
as long as my lover is happy and satisfied and
safe sex is a part of the affair. Looking for
someone in the free world, especially Mass. or
Seattle. Don't need money. 'Chocolate Star'.
Glenn PEOPLES, 336745, Rt 2 Box 4400,
Gatesville TX 76528.

I'd like for you to place in your penpal ad that I
am gay and I am very lonely and looking for so-
meone who is considerate. Any nationality is
welcome to respond. James WALKER, 109391
(W-1-S-7), Box 747, Starke FL 32091.

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I am a Leo, looking for a friend. (Also I would
like to say HI! to all the ladies in the BCI
prison.) And Thanks to GCN for the paper! Patricia
COLEMAN, Box 1466, Clewiston FL 33440.

'Ladies'—I'm seeking to meet intelligent and
understanding women. So don't delay. Let's
become friends. Judith WATSON, 332217,
C-29, Box 3700, Chattahoochee FL 32324

GM likes creative endeavors, humanistic
astrology, games, some sports, most music, and
much more! Please consider writing. Eric
HOLSWORTH, 079737, Box 747, Starke FL
32091

I don't know if you can imagine how lonely it is
in these human warehouses. Any bit of 'the
world' that comes in brings a bit of strength
with it for getting thru the shit here. I'm 30,
long haired, Sicilian, and would like to hear
from all TVs, TSs and pretty people out there.
Music, love and lust, Ritchy CROSS, 86A 9212,
135 State St, Auburn NY 13021.

GM, 24, short-term, Scorpio from NYC. Will
write all. Robert LYKINS, 052211, Box 747,
Starke FL 32091.

GM, 29, seeks gay men to correspond with for
friendship. Interests include LEATHER,
motorcycles, and SEXUAL FANTASIES.
Robert DREHER, E-32711, Bed 367L, Box
500, Chino CA 91708.

Hey! How would you like to keep meat in your
box? Well, if so, please write Glenn THOMAS,
119157, Box 174, St Gabriel LA 70776.

Looking for gay caring male to correspond
with. I like to write and am looking for some-
one to write me. Photo on request. Gus Paul
CHASSAING, 48071, Box 7, Moherly MO
65270.

I wish to have a penpal to rite. It would be ap-
preciated. I am gay and I have been since I was
17. I'm 27 now. Rodney GEORGE, N-38227,
Box 711, Menard IL 62259.

My interests are reading, writing, swimming,
motorcycles, football, hunting, '70s rock,
C&W, and jazz. Studying law now, hyper, love
the unconventional. Jeff ARBAUGH, 80661,
Star Rt Box 22-B, Tucker AR 72168.

Looking for someone special. Is there any
friendly guys or girls (TV or TS) out there will-
ing to share some of their time with me. You
won't regret it. Shannon KELLY, 87T 1352,
135 State St, Auburn NY 13024.

They call me McDRAC and I'm into rap, so
why not rap to me? I'm a 30 yr old Black male,
hung like a horse. I don't play games. William
Thomas LEWIS, 479249, 1150 SW Allapattah
Rd, Indiantown FL 34956.

I am very interested in establishing a penpal
type relationship with another gay man. Here is
some information about myself. I'm athletic,
into good hooks and music. I've sold flowers
and been a body guard (for nefarious
characters). A platonic relation would be ideal.
Dan McCOY, C-31023, Box W (I-D-17),
Represa CA 95671.

I am very bored and lonely in here and would
highly appreciate it if you could find me some-
one who would like to write. Sincerely, Plennie
KEMP, EF-213878 (E-2), Star Route, Reidsville
GA 30499.

Lonely and misunderstood and looking for
someone caring to correspond with. Alvin
SYLVESTER, 95557, Camp J Shark 3R, I.A
State Prison, Angola LA 70712.

GM, ARTIST (pen & ink, watercolors, or
acrylics) into ornithology, dragons, and body-
building looking for sincere non-game player
who likes a masculine partner. I'm 38, well-
formed. William JONES, 18664, Hospital
Drive No. 23, Orofino ID 83544.

I'm a gay black male who loves a man with a
beard. I can handle all large foreskin dicks. My
hobbies are cooking, cleaning house and giving
good blow jobs. Please send me a hard on. Odis
Lee JOHNS, 1100 N. Sims St, Bryan TX 77803.

Black male, 25, would like to correspond with
any latin or white queens for a serious relation-
ship. My interests are reading, letter writing and
body building. I can write other prisoners, so
please write. John TAYLOR, c/o Prometheus
Society, Box 45126, Tacoma WA 98445.

I'm 27, enjoy skiing, and am looking for some
good friends. I don't want money, just a friend
to write to. Kyle ANGLIN, B 147480, Box 221,
Raiford FL 32083.

calendar



31 Thursday ☐ **The Inner Web**, a dramatic comedy about coping with AIDS. Performances May 31, and June 1, 3, 7, 8, 10. At Clarendon Street Theatre, 140 Clarendon St. 8pm. \$14. Wheelchair accessible. Info: 236-4988.

Calendar listings must be received by the Monday before the week of the event. Photos encouraged. Please specify if event is/is not wheelchair accessible and/or sign language interpreted. Please use our format as a guide for listings and put each event on a separate sheet. Listings must be typed. No phone calls, please!

26 Saturday

Boston ☐ **The Dance: Sponsored by Positive Directions and The Boston Living Center.** For all people affected by HIV infection. YWCA. 140 Clarendon St. 9pm-1am. For info 236-1012.

Boston ☐ **Open Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting.** Part of Boston Round-Up of Gay Men and Lesbians in AA. At Park Plaza Castle. Arlington and Columbus Ave. 8pm. For info 247-0853.

28 Monday

Jamaica Plain ☐ **Supersale/Memorial Day Sale.** Clothing, appliances, gift items, etc., to benefit Renewal House. Unitarian Church. 6 Eliot St. 10am-3pm. For info 277-4194.

29 Tuesday

Boston ☐ **The Center's 1st Annual Meeting.** Overview of the 1st year's accomplishments, election of board members, etc. 338 Newbury St. 7pm. For info 247-2927.

31 Thursday

Cambridge ☐ **Kate Millet Reading.** Feminist author reads from her book "The Looney Bin Trip." New Words Bookstore. 186 Hampshire St. 7pm. For info 876-5310.

Boston ☐ **GCN Production Night.** All welcome. Proofreading starts at 5pm. Paste-up after 7pm. 62 Berkeley St., near Arlington and Back Bay T-stops. Info, **GCN**: 617/426-4469.

Boston ☐ **The Inner Web**, a dramatic comedy about AIDS to benefit Living Center and FCHC. Performances May 31 and June 1,3,7,8,10. At Clarendon St. Theatre. 140 Clarendon St. Wheelchair access. 8pm. \$14. For info 236-4988.

Boston ☐ **The Group** meeting. Open discussion for gay men and lesbians. Topic: ACT UP. At 338 Newbury St. 8pm. For info: 734-2078.

Cambridge ☐ **Community Writers Series.** Fiction: Mary Bonina and Susan Hand Robinson. At North Cambridge Branch Library. 70 Rindge Ave. 7:30pm. For info 498-9086.

Cambridge ☐ **Women and Disability** Class at Women's School. Women's Center. 46 Pleasant St. 7:30-9pm. For info 354-8807.

June 1 Friday

Waltham ☐ **WOW: Way Out in Waltham** Potluck barbecue. 6pm. For location and info 893-0361.

Brookline ☐ **Am Tikva Monthly Shabbat Service.** Boston's Community of Lesbian and Gay Jews. At Workmen's Circle. 1762 Beacon St. 8pm. For info 782-8894.

Boston ☐ **Long Trail Backpack Trip to Vermont** Sponsored by Chiltern Mountain Club, outdoor club for gay men and lesbians. June 1-3. For info (603) 644-7658.

Cambridge ☐ **Light from a New Torch: Dancing to Vancouver.** Modern Dance Tour to Gay Games III. At Cambridge Multicultural Arts Center. 41 Second St. June 1 and 2. 8pm. \$10. For info 577-1400.

2 Saturday

Portland ☐ **Maine Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Pride March** March begins 12:45 from Longfellow Statue. Congress and State Street. Other events planned all weekend. For info (207) 883-6934.

Jamaica Plain ☐ **Music by Tricia Langlois.** At Crone's Harvest. 761 Centre St. Wheelchair access. 8pm. \$5. For info 983-9529.

Boston ☐ **Bay Village Street Fair.** At Church and Stuart Streets. 11am-5pm. Raindate June 3.

3 Sunday

Providence ☐ **Walk for Life '90.** 10K pledge walk to benefit RI Project AIDS. Begins at RI State House. 9:30am. For info (401)831-5595.

Amherst ☐ **Community Meeting.** To discuss strategies for referendum fight (in Western Mass.) to preserve gay rights. At UMass Campus Center. 4pm. For info (413) 545-4824.

Dorchester ☐ **GALA Monthly Potluck and Pride Celebration.** 5pm. For info 825-3737.

4 Monday

Boston ☐ **Tax Resistance Clinic.** Offered by New England War Tax Resistance. At Community Church. 565 Boylston St. Wheelchair Access. 7-9pm. For info 731-6139.

Boston ☐ **Boston Living Center General Meeting.** At 140 Clarendon St. For info 236-1012.

6 Wednesday

Boston ☐ **NAMES Project Meeting.** Help bring the quilt to Boston in 1990. At Piemonte Room, Boston City Hall. For info 451-9003.

7 Thursday

Cambridge ☐ **Women's Community Cancer Project.** Feminists discuss political action on cancer issues. At Women's Center. 46 Pleasant St. 7-9pm. For info 489-3806.

Boston ☐ **GCN Production Night.** All welcome. Proofreading starts at 5pm. Paste-up after 7pm. 62 Berkeley St., near Arlington and Back Bay T-stops. Info, **GCN**, 617/426-4469.

8 Friday

Boston ☐ **First Annual Pride Harbor Cruise.** Sponsored by the Center and Pride Committee. 8pm. \$15. For info 262-7760.

Boston ☐ **GCN Mailing.** Come help stuff the paper and meet new friends. 5-10pm. 62 Berkeley St., near Arlington and Back Bay T-stops. Info: **GCN**, 617/426-4469.

9 Saturday

Boston ☐ **20th Anniversary Pride March and Rally.** Gather at 10:30 at City Hall Plaza. For info 262-3149.

Boston ☐ **Two Steppin' for AIDS.** Fundraising benefit for Prnde Committee and Maine Health Foundation. At Villa Victoria. 85 W. Newton St. 8pm-2am. \$10/\$15. For info 825-3268.

Cambridge ☐ **June Millington in Concert.** At Indigo. 823 Main St. 8pm. \$6.50. For info 497-7200.

WEEKLY EVENTS

Saturday

Boston ☐ **Lesbian Fun and Games.** Smoke and alcohol free. At The Center. 338 Newbury St. 7-10pm \$2 donation.The third Saturday of the month.

Sunday

Cambridge ☐ **Lesbian Soccer Team.** Seeks new experienced players. For practice/game schedule 661-6771.

Boston ☐ **The Gay Dating Show,** WUNR 1600 AM. 10:30pm-2.30am. Lesbians and Gay Men.

Boston ☐ **ALATEEN Group** open to lesbian, gay, and bisexual youth, 22 and under. 338 Newbury Street, rm. 202k. 6pm-7:30pm. Dave, 629-2518 or Frank, 666-8912.

Beverly ☐ **North Shore Lesbian/Gay Parenting Support Group.** Meets 1st Sun. of each month. At First Parish Unitarian Church. 225 Cabot St. 6:30-8pm. For info 593-5252.

Monday

Boston ☐ **Monday Night Rap Group.** Talk to others living with HIV. 38 Appleton St. 7:30-9pm. For info 694-0964.

Boston ☐ **Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Rights** holds bi-weekly planning meeting. The Center, 338 Newbury Street. 7pm. 776-6956.

Worcester ☐ **AIDS Project Worcester.** A support group for family, friends, concerned others dealing with HIV. 305 Shrewsbury St. 7-8:30pm. For info 755-3773.

Cambridge ☐ **Lesbian Rap Group.** Topics: 6/4 Political Correctness, 6/11 Summer plans. At Women's Center. 46 Pleasant St. 8-10pm. 508/755-3773.

Tuesday

Boston ☐ **Lambada and Brazilian Dance Class.** Tuesdays and Thursdays. 128 A Tremont St. 4th fl. 6pm. For more info 576-1018.

Boston ☐ **Gay Fathers of Greater Boston** meet 1st and 3rd Tues. of the month. 6/5 Topic: Pride Day. At Lindemann Ctr., 2nd fl. 8-10pm. 742-7897.

Boston ☐ **Gay and Lesbian Support Group for Adult Children of Alcoholics.** Faulkner Hospital. 8:30-10pm. Intake interview required. 522-5800 x1908.

Boston ☐ **Lesbian and Gay Freedom Trail Band Rehearsals.** No audition necessary. At Mass College of Art. Longwood and Brookline Ave. 7:15pm. For info 266-0628.

Providence, RI ☐ **ACT UP/Rhode Island** open meetings. Rocket, 73 Richmond St. 7pm. 273-7228.

Boston ☐ **ACT UP/Boston** meets to confront the AIDS crisis. The Living Center, YWCA, 140 Clarendon St. 7pm. 49-ACT UP.

Cambridge ☐ **30-plus Lesbian Rap** Topics: 6/5 To march or not to march, 6/12 Revenge. At Women's Center. 46 Pleasant St. 7-8:30. For info 354-8807.

Cambridge ☐ **Bisexual Women's Rap.** Topics: 6/5 Book Review, 6/12 Women's Health Issues. At Women's Center. 46 Pleasant St. 7:30-9:30pm. For info 354-8807.

Cambridge ☐ **Women For Sobriety**, a self help group for women recovering from addictions. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 8-9:30pm. 354-8807.

Arlington ☐ **Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays** meets on the second Tuesday of every month at First Parish Unitarian Church, 630 Mass. Ave. 7:15pm. Info: 547-2440 or 508/562-5807.

Boston ☐ **Boston Coalition for Black Lesbians and Gays.** 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month. Harriet Tubman House. 6:30pm. For info 825-2610.

Medford ☐ **We the People with feminist Sheila Parks.** Radio show on WMFO 91.5. 7-9am. Tufts University radio.

Worcester ☐ **Support Group for HIV-positive Gay/Bisexual Men and Their Significant Others.** Closed meeting. At AIDS Project Worcester. 305 Shrewsbury St. 7-8:30pm. For info 755-3773.

Framingham ☐ **Framingham Gay and Lesbian Youth Group.** People 22 and under, meets 1st and 3rd Tuesday of month. Civic League Bldg. 214 Concord St. 6-7:30pm. For info (508) 879-5548.

Cambridge ☐ **Sexual Harrassment at Work Support Group** This group will meet for about 7 weeks beginning 6/5. At Women's Center. 46 Pleasant St. 6:30 For info 354-8807.

Wednesday

Boston ☐ **Boston Alliance of Gay and Lesbian Youth.** Open to youth age 22 and under. At 35 Bowdoin St. New persons' meeting 6pm; women and men meet separately 6:45-7:30; general meeting at 7:30pm. 523-7363 or 1-800-42BAGLY.

Framingham, MA ☐ **Framingham Gay and Lesbian Youth Group.** Open to youth age 22 and under. Meets 1st and 3rd Tues. of each month. At Civic League Building. 214 Concord St. 6-7:30pm.

Worcester ☐ **Supporters of Worcester Area Gay and Lesbian Youth** . Open to gay and bisexual youth 21 and under. Meets 1st and third Wednesday of month at United Congregational Church. 6 Institute Rd. 7pm For info (508) 755-0005.

Worcester ☐ **Support Group for HIV-positives who are in Substance Abuse Recovery.** Closed meeting. At AIDS Project Worcester. 305 Shrewsbury St. 7:30-9pm. For info 755-3773.

Cambridge ☐ **Say it, Sister!** News Radio Show on WMBR, 88.1 FM. 7-8pm.

Cambridge ☐ **Lesbian Al-Anon** with child care, wheelchair accessible. At Women's Center. 46 Pleasant St. 6:30-8pm. For info 354-8807.

Thursday

Boston ☐ **The Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights.** Meets alternating Thursdays. At The Center, rm 202K. 338 Newbury St. 6:30-8pm. For info 828-3039.

Northampton ☐ **Valley Gay Alliance** meets 1st, 3rd Th. every month, basement of the Unitarian Church, 22 Main St. 7:30pm. 413/527-5310.

Stoneham ☐ **Incest Survivors Group** for women. New England Memorial Hospital, 5 Woodland Rd. 5-6:30pm. Sara Epstein, 979-7025.

Boston ☐ **Boston Area Rape Crisis Center** drop-in group for women who have been raped. 492-RAPE.

Cambridge ☐ **Incest Survivors Group.** Women's Center. 46 Pleasant St. 7:30-9:30pm.

Cambridge ☐ **Non-offending Male Sexual Abuse Survivors.** Group meets 1st Thursday of every month. Cambridge Ctr. of Commerce conference room, 859 Mass. Ave. 8:30-10pm. \$5 donation. 498-9881.

Boston ☐ **GLAAD: Boston Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation.** General meetings 2nd Thursday of the month. The Center rm 202. 338 Newbury St.For info 492-4639.

Dorchester ☐ **Gay and Lesbian Concerns Committee of SEIU Local 509.** Meets 2nd Thurs. of each month. At Union Office. 5 Howard Johnson Plaza. 6:30pm. For info 282-2509.

Friday

Boston ☐ **Women in Black.** Demonstrate outside Israeli Consulate in support of the Palestinian right to statehood. Statler Bldg. Near Arlington St. Station. 1st Friday of every month. 12:30-1:30pm. For info 723-6327.

Watertown ☐ **GLOW: Gays and Lesbians of Watertown.** For more info 395-4664.

Brookline ☐ **"Swingtime"**. Lesbian, gay, bisexual swing dance lessons. First Friday of the month. 185 Corey Rd. 8:30-9:15. \$4 For info 661-1792.

Boston ☐ **Classic Films on Super-8 Film** At The Boston Living Center. 140 Clarendon St. free. For info 236-1012

Boston ☐ **Friday Night at the Movies** 6/1 Crimes of Passion, 6/8 Midnight Cowboy. 6/15 Maltese Falcon. The Center. 338 Newbury St. 7pm. \$2.

Longtime Companion. Directed by Norman Rene. Written by Craig Lucas. With Stephen Caffrey, Patrick Cassidy, Druce Davison, John Dossett, Mark Lamos, Dermot Mulroney, Mary-Louise Parker, Campbell Scott. Now playing nationally and at the Loews Nickelodeon, Boston.

By Michael Bronski

There is so much right with Norman Rene's and Craig Lucas's *Longtime Companion*, the first Hollywood-produced film dealing with AIDS, that the ways in which it might disappoint seem insignificant. Writer Lucas has fashioned a nine-year panorama which focuses on a group of ten New Yorkers — white people ranging in age from early 20s to mid-50s and in occupation from out-of-work waiter to independently wealthy — four gay male couples, a single gay man and a straight woman who is a mutual friend of several of them. But rather than go for the involved, ever-evolving dramatic thrust, Lucas singles out one day per year to check in on his characters. He begins in 1981 when the *New York Times* first runs an article on "gay cancer" and concludes in 1989 when several of the characters are about to join an ACT UP direct action: Postcards from the plague years.

This stop-action snapshot approach allows Lucas and director Norman Rene to capture both the movement and the texture of a gay male community during these years. And this is where *Longtime Companion* succeeds beautifully. More than any other "gay film," *Longtime Companion* concerns itself solely and unapologetically with a gay male community. It is clear that these men are one another's families, as well as lovers and friends. Lucas has captured perfectly, in unassuming and understated vignettes, both the nuance and the nerve of gay male life in scene after scene: the slightly drunken chat of David (Bruce Davison) and Sean (Mark Lamos) at a Fire Island tea-dance; Fuzzy (Stephen Caffrey), alone at home, listening to the cast recording of *Dreamgirls*; David, Sean, Fuzzy, Willie (Campbell Scott) and Lisa (Mary-Louise Parker) watching with baited breath and suppressed awe as Howard (Patrick Cassidy) plays the first openly gay character on a TV soap. It is moments like these that give *Longtime*

Snapshots of the plague years

Unassuming vignettes take a remarkable look at the impact of AIDS on a small group of gay men in Longtime Companion



Patrick Cassidy

Companion a veracity unseen in any other Hollywood portrayal of gay life.

But these moments of on-screen truth, wonderful as they are in and of themselves, set the tone for the real emotional wallop of *Longtime Companion*. For as the years close in on this tightknit, extended family, AIDS takes over their lives. By the end of the film four men have died, one is living with AIDS, and two others are unaccounted for — the film's structure, and Lucas's overheard, almost incidental dialogue becomes potent with both expressed and



Campbell Scott (l) and Stephen Caffrey

suppressed emotion. It gnaws at us emotionally, like a half-remembered dream that can't be shaken.

The nine-year time span and the fragmentary glimpses into private lives give us a sense of being caught in a history of personal pain, and yet we are able to see the growth, as well as the deaths, of characters. As time goes on, the pungent truthfulness of the early scenes continues but becomes centered around AIDS: Michael (Michael Schoeffling) and Paul (John Dossett) discuss the holistic philosophy of Louise Hay;

Willy visits John (Dermot Mulroney) as he waits, dying, in a hospital corridor; David helps Sean — who is showing signs of dementia — get through a phone conversation with his boss; Lisa, Fuzzy and Willy help a grieving David through a meal in a cheap Chinese restaurant; Fuzzy, Lisa and Willy attend as ACT UP benefit performed by PWAs. There are no big scenes — the most moving ones are sometimes the shortest — but the cumulative effect of the never-ceasing insistence on detail and on authenticity begins to overwhelm us. Like the films of David Hare — *Plenty* or *Weatherby* — or the late Artie Bressan's independent AIDS film *Buddies*, *Longtime Companion* is engaged in a delicate balancing act. Essentially political in nature (When was the last time you saw a film in which gay men, and their straight friend, volunteer at GMHC and join ACT UP? When was the last time you even dreamed of such a film?) *Longtime Companion* is as interested in showing us the scope, shape and context of its character's lives as well as their emotions. Lucas has been very careful in calculating the narrative highs and lows of *Longtime Companion* and as a result the film has no specific emotional gravity point. There is no one character on which to pin our responses. By underplaying the personal dramas, he has avoided making a film in which AIDS is an individual, personal tragedy which besets one single, unfortunate person. As a result, our tears — and there are plenty of tears — well up from not only our hearts, but our minds and lives as well.

As effective as Lucas's screenplay is, it does present some minor problems. We are so used to clean, simple plots in films that Lucas's ten characters — all of whom appear on screen in a matter of five minutes — tend to overwhelm. And by using the year-by-year episodic approach he curtails expected big climaxes. Many of the characters tend to overlap, resemble pieces of one another and we may at first feel confused as to, at first, who is with whom or even who is who. This is clearly Lucas's intent, as much a part of the film's texture as its eavesdropped dialogue. It is rather like wading into a party and meeting a group of strangers for

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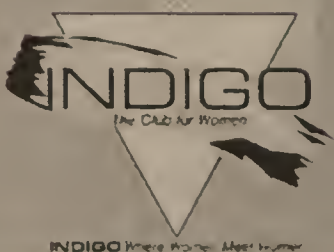
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